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Abdul Meguid starts reconciliation drive

RABAT (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid arrived in Morocco Thursday for a four-day official visit to discuss Arab reconciliation. Officials said he would meet King Hassan and Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali for talks on Arab League proposals to reconcile Arab states estranged during the 1991 Gulf war. The proposals had been approved already by nine of the 21 Arab League member states, they added.

Mondale named as ambassador to Japan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton nominated Friday former Vice-President Walter Mondale to be the new U.S. ambassador to Japan. The 65-year-old Mondale takes over from Michael Armacost in what is seen as a key ambassadorial post linking the world's two largest economic powers. His nomination still has to go through a confirmation hearing in the U.S. Senate, but Mr. Mondale was expected to face little or no opposition.

Lebanon's electricity minister replaced

BEIRUT (R) — President Elias Hrawi replaced Lebanon's minister for electricity and water resources on Friday. A presidential decree appointed Elias Hobeika, minister of state for social affairs and the handicapped and a former warlord with close links to Syria, in place of George Frem. Mr. Frem remains in the cabinet but without a portfolio. Official sources said Mr. Frem was replaced after a rift with Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri over how to rehabilitate the electricity system after 15 years of civil war which ended in 1990.

Iranian diplomat killed in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) — An Iranian diplomat was killed by sniper fire while travelling outside Sarajevo, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Friday. Bosnian press reports said the diplomat and a companion, which the reports identified as Mejid Moutazeri and Mohammad Avdic, while they were travelling from Sarajevo to the town of Zenica. Mr. Moutazeri was the head of an Iranian humanitarian organisation working in Bosnia and Mr. Avdic worked for the group as well, the press reports said.

Ditch starts digging Iraq border ditch

KUWAIT (R) — Workers have started digging a trench along Kuwait's border with Iraq to help stop infiltrators, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. The ditch will be the first component of a new barrier between Kuwait and Iraq, the agency quoted Abdul Aziz Al Sabtain, one of 12 businessmen overseeing project funding, as saying. Mr. Sabtain said workers were digging three metres deep and five metres wide along the 207 km desert frontier to standards that would make it impervious. KUNA said the cabinet had studied many ways of fortifying the barrier such as by adding a wall and barbed wire. Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said last month the government would consider mining the ditch with Iraqi mines left over from the 1990-91 occupation.

20 Kurdish guerrillas killed in clashes

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish troops killed 20 Kurdish guerrillas in a three-day operation, reinforced from the air, in the eastern provinces of Erzurum and Tunceli, the Anatolia agency reported on Friday. The military launched the operation Wednesday in response to a failed attack by about 35 Kurdish guerrillas on a heavy road in the area, Anatolia said. Kurdish guerrillas recently have been hunting for travelling soldiers. The guerrillas are members of the illegal Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) which has been fighting for autonomy in the region since 1984.

Return of Gaza, part of W. Bank could be breakthrough — Arafat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A breakthrough is possible at next week's Middle East talks if Israel cedes control over the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank to the Palestinians, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday.

"Give me the Gaza Strip," Mr. Arafat told the Haaretz newspaper in an interview from PLO headquarters in Tunis. "I can restore order there as I did in Lebanon where the situation was far more complicated," he said referring to the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon from 1970 to 1982.

"The situation is simpler in Gaza and will improve because we will receive financial aid. This would be a good start for the whole peace process."

"It would prove that Israel is applying United Nations Resolution 242," which calls for withdrawal from occupied territory. But he added: "I also need somewhere in the occupied West Bank. It could be Jericho or elsewhere."

"I cannot let it be said that I sold out the West Bank for Gaza. Obviously a corridor would have to be set up between the two areas under international control."

Mr. Arafat went on: "Jerusalem must be integrated in the autonomy project. I am from Jerusalem as is Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi."

"It would be inconceivable that we could not vote in autonomy elections and that the people of East Jerusalem pay taxes other than to a Palestinian authority."

Israel rules out Palestinian control over any part of Jerusalem which was declared its "united capital" in 1967.

Mr. Arafat said he was ready to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin but noted: "He's not really a de Gaulle, but he could at least be a de Klerk." The South African leader bringing an end to apartheid.

Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are set to begin a 10th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington on Tuesday.



Two chador-clad Iranian women Friday cast their votes in Iran's sixth presidential elections (AFP photo)

Iran votes; Rafsanjani set for a big victory

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranians voted in presidential elections Friday with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani widely expected to sweep back to power in a landslide victory.

The overwhelming majority of voters at almost two dozen Tehran polling stations visited by Reuters correspondent could be seen voting for Mr. Rafsanjani. They said the 58-year-old cleric, seen as a wily and pragmatic politician, was the man most able to pull Iran out of its economic difficulties and diplomatic isolation in a second four-year term.

Voting began sluggishly in Tehran but appeared to pick up by mid-day. Mr. Rafsanjani urged all Iranians to vote and "show faith" in his drive to rescue the economy with four more years of painful reforms.

As 27 million voters were called to the presidential election in which Mr. Rafsanjani was sure to romp home to a second term against three token challengers, the focus of interest was on the turnout.

"It's like a referendum on the regime," commented a European diplomat.

Voting at the Jamaran residence in north Tehran of Iran's late spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the president said "the more they (the electorate) go to the polls, the more they show faith in the administration."

Mr. Rafsanjani's aides and elite Revolutionary Guards chanted "peace be upon the Prophet and his family" as the 59-year-old cleric slipped his ballot into a cardboard box, below the balcony where Ayatollah Khomeini used to address his supporters.

As polls opened at 7:30 a.m. (0300 GMT), Iran's main opposition group, the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, claimed its fighters sabotaged the giant Abadan oil refinery complex in south-

western Iran. (see page 2). But the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency denied the claim. It quoted a well-informed source in Abadan as saying the report was "a sheer lie" aimed at "overshadowing the massive turnout of the local people in the presidential elections."

Authorities have mounted a media campaign calling for a big turnout to show the continued popularity of the 1979 Islamic revolution and give a strong endorsement to the winner's policies.

"We don't have enough choices and I don't accept this kind of election but it is a hundred times better than under the Shah," said 40-year-old Mansour Khodami, a civil engineer.

Mr. Khodami and other voters said Mr. Rafsanjani had done a lot for Iran and his policies should help improve the economy.

Polling stations contained no curtained booths for secret voting but voters who wished to conceal their choice from officials by covering their ballot paper with their hands and then holding it face down as they put it in the ballot box.

Mr. Rafsanjani faced challenges from three rivals, all of whom professed few differences with his policies — university president Abdullah Jasbi, right-wing economist Ahmad Tavakoli and former Member of Parliament Rajabali Taheri.

Each has said he broadly agreed with Mr. Rafsanjani's economic and political liberalisation and each had the stamp of approval of the clerical Council of Guardians which endorsed them as true heirs of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Mr. Jasbi, who made Iran's press housing shortage the main flank of his campaign, seemed to attract few voters at the Tehran polling stations. Even fewer peo-

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ROYAL WEDDING: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday pose with newlyweds Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania. To Princess Rania's left are: Her Highness Princess Mona, mother of Prince Abdullah and Dr. Faisal Yassin, the bride's father

Newly-wed Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania leave for honeymoon

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania who were married Thursday left on the honeymoon aboard Friday, Royal Palace sources said. The sources did not reveal the newly-wed couple's destination.

Many foreign dignitaries, including Queen Sophia of Spain and representatives of several Gulf monarchies and the crown prince of Morocco, attended the wedding of Prince Abdullah, 31, the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein, and Rania Faisal Yassin, daughter of Dr. Faisal Yassin, a physician of Palestinian origin who returned to Jordan following the Gulf crisis.

The guests at the ceremony held at Zahran Palace, where Her Majesty the Queen Mother lives, included United Arab Emirates Defence Minis-

ter Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prince Mashaal Bin Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, son of the crown prince of Qatar, and Prince Shabib Ben Taymour, an advisor to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman.

U.S. General Joseph Hoar, head of the U.S. Central Command, also attended the ceremony.

For many Jordanians, the marriage had symbolic importance as a union between the Kingdom's two ethnic components.

"The Hashemite Royal Court is happy to announce to the united Jordanian family the union of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania," it said.

Shortly before the ceremony, the couple rode through the streets in a cream-coloured 1960 American convertible. Princess Rania dressed in

white satin and Prince Abdullah in military uniform.

Families lined the streets to applaud the couple, who waved as the open car drove from Zahran Palace to the main palace.

More than 2,000 guests attended the reception, which included colourful festivities and fireworks.

On the fringes of the marriage, King Hussein met with Prince Sidi Mohammad of Morocco, Sheikh Mashaal, Prince Shabib and Sheikh Mohammad and other foreign dignitaries who had come to attend the wedding.

Queen Sophia was seen off from Amman Friday by King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Prince Sidi Mohammad was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal. Prince Faisal saw off Prince Shabib.

Tax amendments, power tariff hikes clear way for debt rescheduling talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has cleared the way for fresh debt rescheduling negotiations with Jordan's external creditors by meeting certain preconditions specified in the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The road to the Paris Club and London Club is now open," Finance Minister Sami Gammo said Friday, referring to the separate negotiations with creditor governments and commercial banks.

Mr. Gammo, who on Thursday announced the addition of seven items to the list of goods on which consumption tax is levied and amendments to the 99-item list of "non-essential goods," explained that the moves were "a compromise with the IMF," which was demanding the introduction of a sales tax in the place of the consumption tax.

The sales tax proposal is under heavy opposition from local industrial sector which argues that it would be the net loser in terms of profits as well as competitive edge if the levy were to be introduced.

The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker which left office late last month froze the introduction of the sales tax in the face of opposition and delayed other austerity measures apparently in view of political sensitivities of some of its members who are expected to seek reelection as members of Parliament in next polls.

The mostly-technocrat government of Prime Minister



Sami Gammo

Abdul Salam Al Majali, which succeeded that of Sharif Zeid is not burdened with such a consideration.

Simultaneous with the amendments and additions to the consumption tax list announced Thursday, electricity tariffs were also increased following an increase in the price of fuel oil used by power-generating plants.

The series of measures followed negotiations with the IMF, "after it was decided that the time was not opportune to introduce the controversial sales tax," Mr. Gammo told the Jordan Times.

An IMF certification that Jordan is implementing an economic recovery programme is essential before negotiations with the creditors could be scheduled.

In a formal announcement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Gammo said Thursday that the changes incorporated into the consumption tax structure and scope were expected to bring in JD 3.5 million in additional

revenues to the treasury to help meet increases in government expenditure caused by this year's increase in the salaries of civil servants and pensions, and allocations to the National Aid Fund and the Development and Employment Fund.

The expected JD 3.5 million compares with a JD 30 million figure demanded by the IMF, Mr. Gammo said.

The items added to the consumption tax list are: Playing cards, jewellery, non-gold coins with no official value, gypsum (except for use for medical purposes), metal pipes, musical instruments and handtools.

The items on which the consumption tax is amended are: Matches, liquid batteries, paints and paste, cigarette paper, photo films, radio sets, television sets, audio and video recorders, fornicia plates, dishwashers, bolt iron and wall-papers.

The rates of the tax, varying between five and 20 per cent, have been published in the official gazette.

"In some cases the amendments have actually brought down the rate of tax since we introduced a percentage system on the value of the goods rather than a fixed amount on a fixed quantity," the minister said.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour said meanwhile that the low-income families and the agricultural sector were exempt from the increase in electricity tariffs which takes effect on June 15.

The 12-per cent increase

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Tarawneh to lead peace talks delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Tarawneh will head Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington on June 15, informed sources said Friday. Dr. Tarawneh replaces Abdul Salam Majali, who on May 29 became prime minister.

According to the sources, the delegation will include Marwan Dudin, a former minister of occupied territories affairs; Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, a former minister and until recently assistant U.N. secretary general;

General Tahseen Shurduum, chief of military intelligence replacing Lt. Gen. Abdul Hafez Miral, who became head of the Joint Chief of Staff, Munther Haddadin, former chief of the Water Authority (JWA) and a member of Dr. Majali's delegation; Mohammad Bani Hani, also former head of the JWA and member of Majali's delegation.

Abdullah Touqan, Royal Court advisor and head of Jordan's delegation to the armament committee of the multilateral talks; Hassan Abu Ne'meh, ambassador to Italy; Shaker Arabiyat, ambassador to Bahrain;

Nayef Al Qadi, ambassador to Qatar; Aun Khasawneh, advisor to the Crown Prince; and General Abdul Ilah Kardi, from the General Intelligence Department, and Musa Breizat, from the Royal Court, and Marwan Muasher, who heads the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, all three on Majali's delegation.

Leaving the delegation in addition to Dr. Majali were Jawad Anani who serves in the Cabinet as minister for Prime Ministry Affairs and ex-ambassador to U.S. Hussein Hamami who now serves as the Foreign Ministry secretary general. The newcomers to the delegation are Mr. Dudin, Dr. Touqan and Dr. Abdul Jabbar.

Advisors to the delegation include: Ibrahim Badran, advisor to the Prime Ministry; Ahmad Qatnani, former director of the Palestinian affairs department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dureid Mahasneh, director general of the Ports Corporation; Mohammad Alwan, a professor of international affairs at Yarmouk University; and Hisham Baban, legal advisor at the Crown Prince's office.

Stage seen set for Somalia showdown

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Mogadishu airport will close at midnight local time (2100 GMT) to all non-United Nations traffic, a U.N. military spokesman said Friday.

It was the clearest sign yet that the U.N. was gearing up for a military strike against Somali gunmen held accountable for the slaying last weekend of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers.

"From midnight, we are closing the airport to non-UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia) aircraft," U.S. army Major David Stockwell told reporters. "It will remain closed until further notice."

Maj. Stockwell said the closure of the airport was due to continuing civil disturbance in Mogadishu, where snipers have been shooting at U.N. troops every day since the ambush of the "Blue Helmets" last Saturday.

Earlier, more foreign aid workers who had not already left the city were evacuated.

Following a confidential briefing with U.N. officials, the British charities Oxfam and Save the Children Fund declined an invitation to move into a freshly-fortified U.N. military compound and left the city.

"They were told if they did not go today, then forget it," said an airport official.

The International Committee of the Red Cross flew in a four-man emergency team Friday with enough blood plasma to treat 1,000 casualties.

Italian Ambassador Enrico Augelli told Reuters he was pessimistic about the turn of event and feared "heavy bloodshed."

Mr. Augelli has tried to mediate a less drastic solution to the crisis between the U.N. and Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideded whose men are blamed for Saturday's massacre (see page 5).

Gen. Aideded Friday blamed tension in the Somali capital on predictions that U.N. forces will take revenge for the attack.

Gen. Aideded repeated accusations that the U.N. forces were responsible for one of the bloodiest incidents in the history of peacekeeping operations but said he wanted the troops to stay and help the country back on the road of peace.

"People of Somalia need peace and the international community can help them," Gen. Aideded told a news conference at his residence in central Mogadishu.

He said he was trying to calm a nervous population in the capital. Many refugees who came to find food during last summer's famine have started leaving the city.

"It is very difficult to tell people to remain calm when they are hearing they will be attacked any time," said.

A U.S. military spokesman in Kuwait said Friday that more than 2,000 U.S. Marines are cutting short exercises in Kuwait in preparation for possible deployment.

(Continued on page 5)

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Assad 'refusing' to clarify 'full peace' to Clinton

The Jerusalem Post

SYRIAN President Hafez Al Assad rejected a request from President Bill Clinton to clarify the meaning of the "full peace" Damascus says it is ready to make with Israel.

Mr. Clinton made the request in a letter two weeks ago, it was revealed Tuesday night.

American sources said Mr. Clinton requested the clarification, so he could approach Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with them, and then ask him for clarifications of his intentions regarding withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

The letter marks the first time Mr. Clinton has become personally involved in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

The report of the exchange of letters threw somewhat of a damper on the outlook for the next round of peace negotiations, set to convene in Washington on Tuesday. All sides were also awaiting the results of a meeting Thursday night between an advance delegation of Palestinian representatives, which arrived in Washington Tuesday, and U.S. administration officials. That meeting was still going on at press time.

But Israeli, Arab, and American political sources continued to predict yesterday that significant progress is possible next week.

Ambassador to the U.S. Itamar Rabinovich, who is also chief negotiator with the Palestinians, said yesterday that this was his impression, based both on the general atmosphere and on "other factors" he declined to specify.

The Americans, it is said, think there is a good chance of reaching agreement on a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles before the end of this round of talks. Arab sources in Washington share this opinion.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a last-minute PLO appointment to head the delegation to the preliminary talks, said before leaving for Washington yesterday that he was not committing himself now to going to the talks next week. "I am going tomorrow. That's

all I can say," he told The Jerusalem Post from his home in Gaza.

But delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and PLO chief Yasser Arafat have both said there is no danger of the Palestinians boycotting next week's talks.

Dr. Ashrawi, who left Amman directly for Washington yesterday, reiterated, "No," she said when asked whether the Palestinians were considering staying away. "These discussions (in Washington) are preparatory for the tenth round and to put the negotiations in the right context."

Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Jerusalem Post last week he believes the main sticking point is Israel's refusal to define the territories as occupied, and that most of the delegation supports his view. Ghassan Khatib, a former communist who skipped the last round of talks, but is a member of delegation to the preliminary talks, shares Dr. Abdul Shafi's view.

In an interview with East Jerusalem daily Al Quds, Mr. Rabin



Hafez Al Assad

said he was not interested in annexing the territories. Mr. Rabin said he envisaged some kind of Palestinian-Jordanian or Israel-Palestinian-Jordanian arrangement.

Asked by journalist Daoud Kurban if the talks would collapse if delegates declared themselves members of the Palestine National Council, Mr. Rabin said, "We would have to take action," but he stopped short of saying that would end the talks.

Rabin would not answer a question on whether he might negotiate directly with the PLO.

'Arabs and Israel should not expect aid'

The Jerusalem Post

PROSPECTS for Middle East peace have never been better, but the United States is not going to be able to assume the costs of a settlement, a retired American diplomat said Wednesday.

"As a lubricating factor, money is not going to be as available to Mr. Clinton as it was to his predecessors," asserted Herman Eilts, a former American ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, who is visiting Israel under the auspices of United States Information Agency. He made his remarks in an address at Bar-Ilan University's Centre for Strategic Studies.

Mr. Eilts repeatedly cautioned Arabs and Israelis not to expect American aid to help ease the burden of a difficult settlement, noting both sides would "have stand on their own."

The American taxpayer is financing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to a large extent, but these days it's much more difficult to get money out of Congress," he said.

Mr. Eilts, whose first posting was to occupied Jerusalem in 1947 and who subsequently served in the Middle East for over 30 years, said he was commenting as a "private citizen." But he was clearly speaking with the Clinton administration's approval.

He barely addressed a plan backed by former Secretary of State James Baker, to station American forces along the Golan Heights or elsewhere as part of security arrangements between Israel and its neighbors.

Members of the Clinton administration have been much more guarded about committing American forces for this purpose. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, in his earlier position as chairman of the House of Armed Services Committee, had reportedly objected to the idea.

Mr. Eilts said several times, lauded the Bush administration's efforts at combining a "comprehensive" and an "incremental" approach to the peace process under the guidance for career foreign service officers, including especially Samuel Lewis (former ambassador to Israel) and Edward Djerejian (former ambassador to Syria).

Israel may not need \$10b in American guarantees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM —

Two-and-a-half years after Israel urgently asked the United States for guarantees for \$10 billion in loans to help absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union, economic and former government officials are saying the country may not need the money, after all.

The request touched off a bitter political struggle between former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Bush administration over Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, and helped cause Mr. Shamir's defeat in last June's elections. Israel finally won the guarantees last year, and recently raised the first \$1 billion on Wall Street.

The money is now on deposit at the Bank of Israel — but the government is not rushing to spend it. For now, too, Israel has decided to wait at least until fall to borrow the next \$1 billion — and outside experts, including the head of the Bank of Israel during

Shamir's government, say there is now little need for it.

This week, a conference on the loan guarantees was held in Tel Aviv. Its title: "What Do You Do With \$10 Billion?" Outside, Russian immigrant activists demonstrated to protest that no representative of their interests was invited to discuss the use of the loans.

Under the agreement with the United States, Israel is barred from spending the money for settlement of occupied Arab territories.

The remainder of the first \$2 billion — if it is all borrowed — will be used to boost Israel's foreign currency reserves and parceled out to business firms as loans — although critics here say there is already plenty of capital available.

While the loan guarantees are not essential to Israel's economy, Sagui said, they will allow the country — and businesses — to borrow at lower interest rates.

Washington said to have proof of Iraqi role in plot

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has found evidence implicating the Iraqi government in a plot to assassinate former President George Bush, but has decided to withhold any public statement or U.S. response during the trial of the alleged assassins in Kuwait, U.S. officials said June 9.

Generally, we think that there is evidence... that the Iraqis were involved in the effort against Bush," when the ex-president visited Kuwait in mid-April, a senior intelligence analyst told a group of reporters.

Other U.S. officials said the conclusion was based partly on a statement by one of the alleged plotters to FBI and Secret Service investigators that Iraq was behind the attempt and that Bush was the target — a claim the man, Wali Abdul Hadi Ghazali, repeated in a Kuwaiti courtroom last week.

The (Federal Bureau of Investigations) senior analyst, who spoke on condition that he not be named, also said that U.S. experts have found substantial corroborating evidence. He said the bombs, explosive materials and operating procedures meant to be

used in the plot against Mr. Bush resembled those used by Iraqi terrorists around the time of the Gulf war.

Another official familiar with the government's investigation said the "forensic" evidence implicating Iraq included analysis linking the design and materials of a carbomb confiscated from the alleged plotters to other bombs made by Iraq.

The remarks represented the most definitive statement that an administration official has made so far about Iraq's involvement in the attempted assassination, which was allegedly supposed to occur during Mr. Bush's April 14-16 visit to Kuwait for ceremonies commemorating the Gulf war.

Some doubts about Iraq's involvement persist within the administration, stemming partly from the plotter's apparent incoherence. For example, Raad Assadi, the alleged ringleader, testified in Kuwaiti court last week that he never intended to carry out any attack and had ditched some of the explosives in the desert after crossing from Iraq into Kuwait — The Washington Post.

Polisario seeks U.S. support

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president of the Sahrawi republic, which claims independence from Morocco, appealed for American help Thursday in a cause once supported mainly by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Algeria.

Mohammad Abdul Aziz said he has been meeting with U.S. officials, primarily members of Congress, to gain support for a U.N.-sponsored independence referendum for the thinly populated Western Sahara.

The United States has long-time ties with Morocco and does not recognize the Sahrawi republic, but it supports U.N. efforts to hold a referendum on Western Sahara's independence. Morocco controls much of the arid but mineral-rich region that lies along Africa's northwest coast.

Mr. Abdul Aziz, speaking through a translator to reporters, accused Morocco of trying to set up a false referendum and of trying to undermine a September 1991 ceasefire being monitored by unarmed U.N. officers from 27 countries.

"We are at a very crucial moment in the U.N. peacekeeping process in the Western Sahara," Mr. Abdul Aziz said. "We are asking the United States to use its political influence to ensure a free, transparent election. We should not allow Morocco to abort this peace process."

Mr. Abdul Aziz said all he seeks is stronger U.S. support for the U.N. peace plan, including the long-postponed referendum. Both Morocco and the former Marxist Polisario Front, which Mr. Abdul Aziz heads, claim the desert area which was ruled by Spain for 100 years, until 1976. They have been fighting for control of the area for 17 years.

Mr. Abdul Aziz said Morocco was interested in the Western Sahara's reserves of phosphate, iron ore and oil. He also accused the French, former colonizers of Morocco, of encouraging Morocco's claim.

"The French sometimes take a more extreme position than Morocco against us," he said. The former colonizer of Western Sahara, Spain, on the other hand, has backed the idea of a referendum. Mr. Abdul Aziz said the Polisario was grateful to Spain for its position and wants to use a 1974 Spanish census as the basis for voting roles.

Iran opposition says it hit Abadan refinery

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian opposition movement the Mujahideen-e-Khalq said its guerrillas blew up a large part of the Abadan refinery in southwestern Iran Friday in a major attack timed to coincide with Iranian presidential elections.

The Iranian authorities have responded by turning off the taps and stopping the flow of oil throughout the Abadan area to prevent a fire spreading to the centre of the refinery, one of the largest in Iran, Mujahideen spokesman Ali Safavi said.

The guerrillas, part of well-equipped army with bases in neighbouring Iraq, attacked the western section of the refinery at 6 a.m. local (0130 GMT), overrunning the headquarters of a Revolutionary Guards division and the headquarters of state security forces there, he said.

"With 16 powerful explosions, they blew up large portions of the western section of the refinery. Scores of revolutionary guards, including some of their commanders, were killed," said Mr. Safavi, who was speaking by telephone from Paris.

The Mujahideen have been reporting a series of attacks on government targets in western Iran since early this year. The Iranian authorities have denied some and confirmed others.

They denied a Mujahideen report that its guerrillas destroyed 11 pipelines in Khuzestan province and inflicted damage worth \$100 million in an attack on June 7. Abadan, at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, is in Khuzestan.

But Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, has confirmed the group attacked from Iraq in January, April and May.

Mr. Safavi said the Mujahideen also made five attacks on military targets inside Iran on Friday morning, killing or wounding at least 140 men and

destroying scores of vehicles.

One unit hit a battalion of the Revolutionary Guards with rockets and other weapons between the western cities of Khorramshahr and Ahvaz at 4.30 a.m. (midnight GMT), he said. The Revolutionary Guards lost 30 men killed or wounded.

The second attack was on another Revolutionary Guards unit southwest of Ahvaz at 1 a.m. (2030 GMT). At least 20 guards were killed or wounded, he said.

The third attack was on an army brigade in the Sumar region of Kermanshah province to the north of the other attacks. Thirty-five soldiers were killed or wounded, he said.

The fourth and fifth, in which 55 Revolutionary Guards were killed or wounded, were near the city of Gilan Garb, also in Kermanshah province and close to the Iraqi border.

Mr. Safavi said the attacks were specifically timed for the presidential elections, in which President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is expected to win a second four-year term. The Mujahideen say the elections are a sham and Iranians should refrain from voting.

The Mujahideen say they have escalated their attacks in recent months to exploit growing internal unrest caused by the deteriorating economy and a power struggle that intensified ahead of Friday's presidential elections.

They claim all the attacks are launched by units based inside Iran.

However, the operations have all been so close to the border, that they could have well come from Iraq.

Iraq alleges that Iran is aiding Shi'ite Muslim rebels in the south and mounting attacks by the Revolutionary Guards against the Kurdish irregulars.

Denktash will not attend Cyprus talks in New York

ANKARA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Thursday he would not return to New York for talks next week on reunifying Cyprus, Turkey's Anatolian news agency reported.

"There are a lot of questions to be asked before answers (can be given) to the latest U.N. proposals," the agency quoted him as saying in a speech to the Turkish parliament.

"I am not going to New York before I get the answers," he said.

He will send his foreign minister, Kenan Atakol, he said. Mr. Denktash heads the breakaway Turkish state declared in the north in 1983 and recognised by Ankara alone. Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops seized the north in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The U.N., which has a 1,500-strong peacekeeping force on the island, has proposed setting up a federation of the two communities as a solution.

As a confidence-building measure it has suggested that the north hands over the deserted resort of Varosha in Turkish-held Famagusta to U.N. control.

In an interview with Anatolia before his parliament speech Mr. Denktash said he would reject the proposals and quit as negotiator if Mr. Atakol did not bring back satisfactory answers.

"If my leaving negotiations will not suffice to stop the pressure on us, I can then resign as president," he said.

Orhan Kilercioglu, Turkish state minister for Cyprus, told parliament after Mr. Denktash that Turkey would "never accept a solution that would disturb the Turkish Cypriots."

mined to support peace efforts but it must be a realistic, lasting peace acceptable to the Turkish Cypriots," he said.

Mr. Denktash said the confidence-building measure, which also involves the reopening of Nicosia airport under U.N. control, was "unbalanced" against Turkish-Cypriots.

He wants a Greek-Cypriot economic embargo lifted from his enclave's ports as well and has said this was refused in New York.

"We come under constant pressure (in New York) and (are told) if you don't do this or that Turkey will pay for it," he told the daily Milliyet.

"We try to keep the talks going by accepting to be treated like a schoolchild only so Turkey won't suffer. Otherwise it is possible to walk out."

He was referring to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and five permanent members of the Security Council involved in the talks.

He said that although he wanted a federation in Cyprus he would not agree to the return of some 60,000 displaced Greek-Cypriots to the north.

Mr. Denktash has met President Suleyman Demirel and acting Prime Minister Erdal Inönü but they face attack by opposition leaders.

"Denktash... is being stabbed in the back by Turkish leaders," ex-Prime Minister and Democratic Left Party leader Bulent Ecevit said.

"The leaders are minding not national interests but Turkey's image in the eyes of the West. This is called an inferiority complex," main opposition Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz said Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamists get 2 new cabinet posts in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Yemen's presidential council gave two new cabinet posts in the coalition government to the Islamist party Thursday. Abdul Wahab Ali Al Ounsi was appointed deputy prime minister, and Abdul Salam Khaled Kouman became justice and parliamentary affairs minister. With the new appointments, the Islamist party Islah — which won 24.6 per cent of the seats in April's parliamentary elections — now holds six posts in the 51-member cabinet. President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) has 15 cabinet posts. The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has eight ministers in addition to Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas. Mujahid Abu Abu Shawarab of the pro-Iraqi Baath Party was earlier appointed deputy prime minister.

Tunisian student leader jailed

TUNIS (R) — The leader of Tunisia's students union has been sentenced to one year's jail on charges of using the drug cannabis, his lawyers said Thursday. But Nawfal Ziadi, who was convicted Wednesday, rejected the charges telling the court he was on trial for his activities as head of the union, the lawyers added. Mr. Ziadi, 30, is secretary-general of the Union General des Etudiants de Tunisie which called a strike in Tunisia's universities in February as part of a campaign to secure police withdrawal from campuses. He was arrested in May on the evidence of a drug dealer. The dealer, the only prosecution witness, later told the court he did not recognise Mr. Ziadi as the person to whom he sold cannabis for 10 dinars (\$10) two years ago. But the government denied any link between the trial and Mr. Ziadi's union activities. Habib Ziadi, a lawyer, said he was concerned about his brother's health. Mr. Nawfal had an open-heart operation years ago, and he also has backache and suffers from rheumatism," he said.

Chad parliament overturns Libya accord

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad's transitional parliament Thursday overturned a cooperation treaty with Libya, Chadian national radio reported. The parliament, the High Council of the Transition, said last November's agreement was improper because of a longstanding dispute over the Aouzou border region. "The High Council of the Transition considers it strange to sign a cooperation accord with Libya which has since 1973 occupied the Aouzou Strip, a border conflict placed in the hands of the international court of justice," the radio said. Political sources said the accord contained provisions for coordination of regional and international policies and free movement of labour and capital between the two neighbours. Libyan and Chadian forces have fought each other for much of the past 25 years but Western diplomats say Chad's President Idriss Deby, who seized power in a 1990 coup, did so with Libyan backing. Mr. Deby visited Tripoli to consolidate relations in 1991 but refused to abandon his country's claim to Aouzou.

Quake shakes Algerian town, no damage

ALGIERS (R) — An earthquake registering 3.8 on the Richter scale shook the Algerian town of 'Ain Bessam on Thursday but caused no damage, the official news agency APS said. It quoted the geophysical research centre as saying the quake was followed 30 minutes later by an aftershock in the same district, 80 kilometres southeast of Algiers. Earthquakes over force four on the Richter scale often cause heavy damage in populated areas.

Are you relative of Rushdie? asks Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, heading for a second term in office in elections on Friday, brushed off questions on the future of the condemned British author Salman Rushdie. "Are you a relative of Salman Rushdie?" he asked, laughing, when a British reporter insisted on a reply to whether the new government planned to change policy on Mr. Rushdie. His aides joined in the laughter. Mr. Rafsanjani said "you know" the position, namely that the death sentence imposed on Mr. Rushdie by Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini could not be changed. Declining to go into details, the white-turbaned cleric noted that "these are elections." Mr. Rafsanjani was casting his ballot in the modest Jamaran residence of Ayatollah Khomeini in northern Tehran, below the balcony where the founder of the Islamic republic would address his supporters.

U.S. court awards damages to Iraqi

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — A U.S. federal court jury awarded a former Iraqi government television and radio announcer \$159,000 in damages after finding that she was libelled by a Houston-based Arab language newspaper. The verdict against the "Arab Times" and its editor-in-chief Osama Fawzi Yousef, was returned late Wednesday after a two-day trial in the eastern district of Virginia. The jury awarded \$9,000 in compensatory damages and \$150,000 in punitive damages to Shammam Noel Rassam, now a radio and TV announcer for the Satellite Arab Network of America, based here. Mrs. Rassam, who was visiting relatives in New York when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and decided to stay in the United States, sued the newspaper last October over statements in one of its editions last August. The newspaper published an anonymous letter-to-the-editor accusing her of fraud in connection with a charity gala that she emceed in June 1992 to benefit Iraqi children victimised by the Gulf war. After the suit was filed, the newspaper published replies in December and January accusing her of being an Iraqi intelligence agent and alleging that the Iraqi government was financing her court case.

Leftists attack offices of Turkish parties

ISTANBUL (R) — Left-wing militants attacked district offices of Turkey's ruling coalition partners in Istanbul Wednesday and left behind bombs, officials said. Police safely defused the bombs. Officials said armed militants of the outlawed Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) group burst into the district offices of the True Path Party (DYP) and the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) and sprayed slogans on the walls. One police guard was hurt, they added. Dev-Sol has claimed responsibility for dozens of political murders, bombings and armed robberies in major Turkish cities in the past three years.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30 Envoyé Spécial
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fenêtre sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloopers
21:00 Not Another Science Show
21:30 Varieties
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: Let's Get Harry

PRAYER TIMES

05:50 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Duha
12:25 Dhuhr
16:16 'Asr
19:46 Maghreb
21:20 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Yannakia Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630551, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.

Amman 15 / 33
Agaba 22 / 37
Deserts 16 / 35
Jordan Valley 10 / 37

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Mohammad 740740
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 794788
Dr. Jihad Zyadah 881148
Dr. Hisham Kassar 790286
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 718336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649465
Shimoon pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Agaba 20 per cent.

REPAIRS:
Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 070230
Overseas Calls 070230
Central Amman Telephone

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:
Human Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643140
Malhas, J. Amman 641714
Elastine, Shmouani 669131
Shmouani Hospital 845345
University Hospital 6672270
Al-Mashar Hospital 6612757
Al-Ahli, Abadi 641646
Italian, Al-Mohajir 771015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7711026
Army, Marks 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amn Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Repairs 623101
Abadi Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816151
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Human Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643140
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Repairs 623101
Abadi Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816151
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

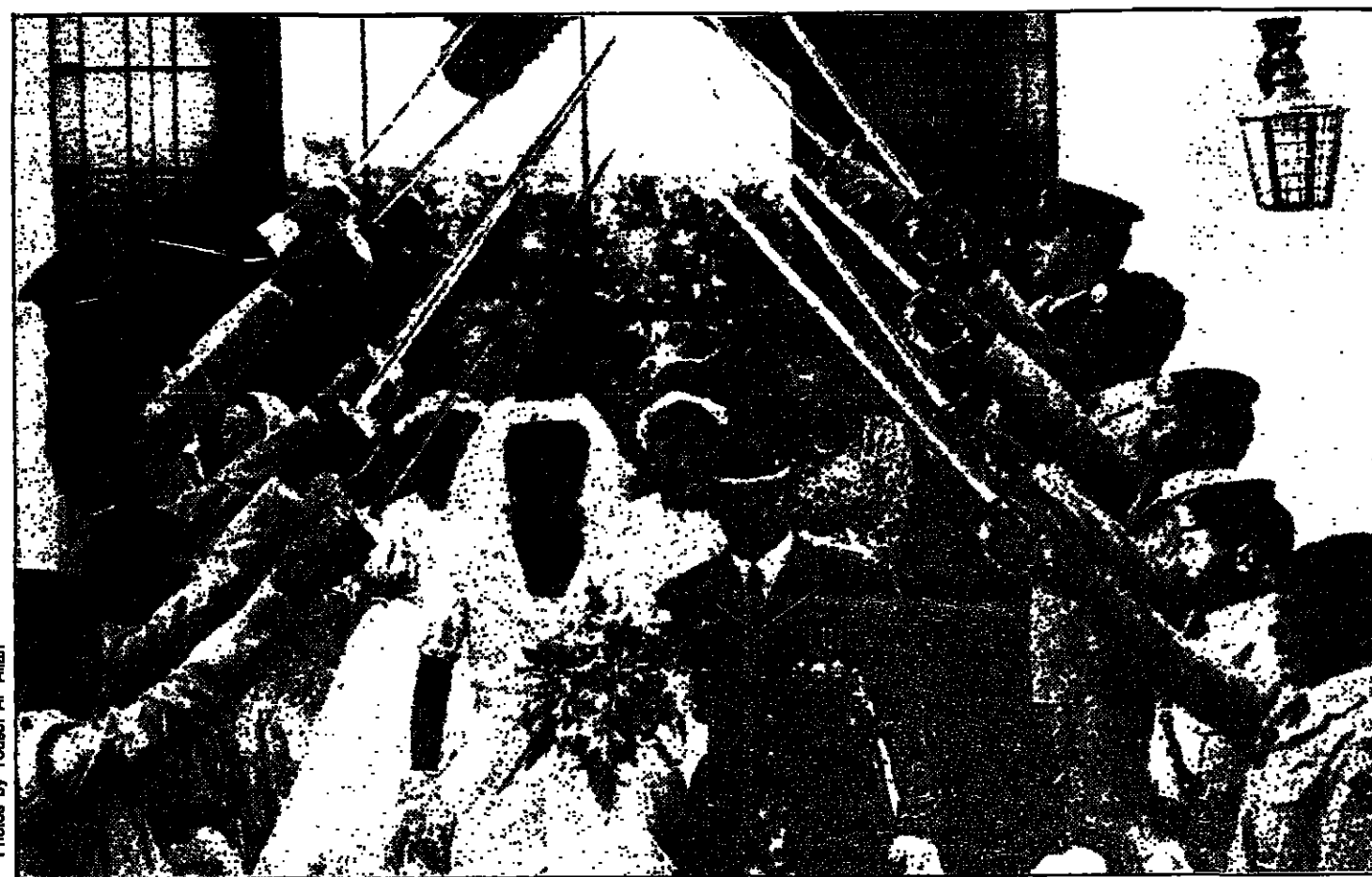
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

REPAIRS

AMMAN:
Human Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643140
Malhas, J. Amman 641714
Elastine,

Scenes from the Royal wedding



NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Yeltsin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable of good wishes to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, on his country's national day. He wished the president continued good health and happiness and further progress for the Russian people.

Reorganisation planned for hospitals

SALT (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said here Thursday that the ministry was in the process of reorganising Jordanian hospitals and health centres. Addressing a meeting during an inspection visit to the Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, the minister said that the measures aim at reducing formalities and improving services.

73,000 students to take tawjihi exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 73,000 male and female secondary school students will start their second and final tawjihi examination for the 1992-93 scholastic year on Sunday. The students will sit for exams in the literary, scientific, industrial, commercial, agricultural, nursing and hotel management streams. The same students had taken the first session of the exam last January.

University to hold graduation ceremonies

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will hold graduation ceremonies this month for students from the various faculties who completed their courses this year. The university's Students Affairs Dean Mohammad Khreisat said the ceremonies will be held at the Sports Stadium June 19 and 23.

Satellite photo workshop opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on ways to benefit from satellite photos in drawing maps and in other relevant fields will open Saturday at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in Amman. The three-day workshop will be attended by representatives of universities and various concerned government departments.

Environment officials head for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of officials representing the Department of Environment and several industrial businesses in Jordan left for Cairo Friday for a week-long visit. The team will study Egypt's experience in the use of materials which do not affect the ozone layer. They will be touring a number of industrial centres.

Meetings to open on regional power linkage

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour Saturday opens meetings of ministers of electricity and energy in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Jordan, to discuss an electric project linking the five countries. Attending the meetings will be representatives of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The two-phase project will cost about \$385 million. The first phase of the project, which will be completed by 1997 involves the installation of 474 kilometres of high voltage electric lines between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey; in the second phase 658 kilometres will be installed. The second phase will be implemented from 1998 to 2002. Work on the first segment of the project linking Jordan with Egypt has already started with funding by AFESD and the IDB.

Conference to focus on Jordanian economy

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on the performance of the Jordanian economy will open Sunday at the University of Jordan. The conference, entitled "The Jordanian Economy: Problems and Future Prospects" is organised by the University's Centre for Strategic Studies. Participants will treat such topics as economic development in Jordan between the 1950s and 1990s, Jordan's foreign debts, the economic restructuring programme, unemployment, investments and legislations to encourage investments, Jordan and the Gulf states, and European-Jordanian economic relations.

Fund grant JD6.4m in business loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) Mohammad Smadi Friday said the fund had already granted JD6.406,000 in 1,226 individual loans to finance projects in the industrial, agricultural, handicraft and tourist areas. He added that the fund also spent JD1.5 million to finance 35 middle and small-size projects run by voluntary societies and social development centres.

Holland donates \$1.1m to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Netherlands has made an additional contribution of \$1.1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), to support the agency's emergency programmes in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, according to a press release issued by UNRWA Friday.

Activists debate forming new women's 'authority'

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arguments over the practicality of developing another women's organisation dominated a meeting Friday held by the preparatory committee for the Women's Popular Conference.

At the meeting, planned to finalise papers that will be discussed at the conference on July 2, chairperson Huda Al Fakhouri said women activists saw the need to call for such a wide-based conference to develop a "women's authority" and to bring the women's movement out of its current "crisis".

According to Dr. Fakhouri and other women activists at the meeting, the two present women unions in Jordan — the Women's Union in Jordan (WUJ) and the General Union for Jordanian Women (GUJW) — are the reasons for the present crisis.

The 100 participants concurred that the WUJ and the GUJW in their current forms are unsuitable for advancing women's rights. Failure to

become mass-based women's movements; politics often taking precedence over women's issues and programmes; struggles between different groups of women, each representing their own agenda over who will dominate the union; and external interference from the government were given as reasons for seeking a replacement for the present unions.

Dr. Fakhouri as well as others present at Friday's meeting called for establishing a new women's organisation that will offer a new vision; they look to the July conference to follow through on this suggestion.

They also refuse to work through the existing unions, explaining that as the source of the crisis working through the WUJ and GUJW will only worsen the situation, not improve it.

Yet, Toujan Faisal, a feminist and member of the preparatory committee, asserted that the "failure of an institution to function is not the fault of the institution, but the fault of its members."

Most of the members of the preparatory committee are or were mem-

bers of either the WUJ or GUJW.

Other members of the preparatory committee, including Khadijah Abu Ali, believed that the meeting should focus on developing a new vision and working strategy for women before deciding whether a new organisation is needed or not.

In order to form this new vision, Ms. Abu Ali stressed, in depth studies should be conducted regarding the existing working methodology of different women's organisations, associations and unions, as well as studies on the situation of Jordanian women, especially those living outside the capital, who historically have been neglected.

Majida Al Masri, another preparatory committee member describes the committee as a pressure group. She suggested that the committee, which includes women from different sectors, political parties, women's organisations and unions, should establish principles on which there is a consensus and then decide if an organisation needs to be established.

Ms. Masri said if an existing orga-

nisation is willing to reform its charter and bylaws and adapt to the principles outlined by the preparatory committee, there is no reason to establish another women's organisation or, as she described it, a third women's union.

Haifa Al Bashir, a member of the committee and a renowned women's activist, believed that forming a new women's organisation is not in itself sufficient, it needs to be accompanied with a special law. Otherwise, she said, the new organisation will become part of the problem, just like the ones that preceded it.

But lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader suggested working with the WUJ, of which she is president, and developing its laws to suit the principles agreed upon at the Women's Popular Conference.

Ms. Khader stressed that creating a new women's "institution" under a special law, and not under the Social Institutions Law, which other women unions and cultural associations abide by, requires a long period of time before passing through Parliament.

She added that the composition of

the next parliament, (implying the expected dominance of the Islamists) will not pass the law as presented by the preparatory committee or by the conference. Instead she warned they might change the law making it more regressive than the Social Institutions Law.

The women's movement has not yet used the WUJ to its fullest potential, Ms. Khader insisted. Thus, she said, women's activists could still work through the WUJ and achieve many of their objectives.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Writers' League, concluded its work by promising to: take all suggestions into consideration; carry out further studies requested, especially regarding the principles and the legal terms of reference; and provide all the alternative structures possible, including new and old institutions, for the organisation that will adopt these principles and terms. The decision, regarding the operational framework will be taken at the conference, which will be open to all women who wish to participate.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by more than 40 plastic artists from Iraq at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Marianne Naerobout at the British Council.

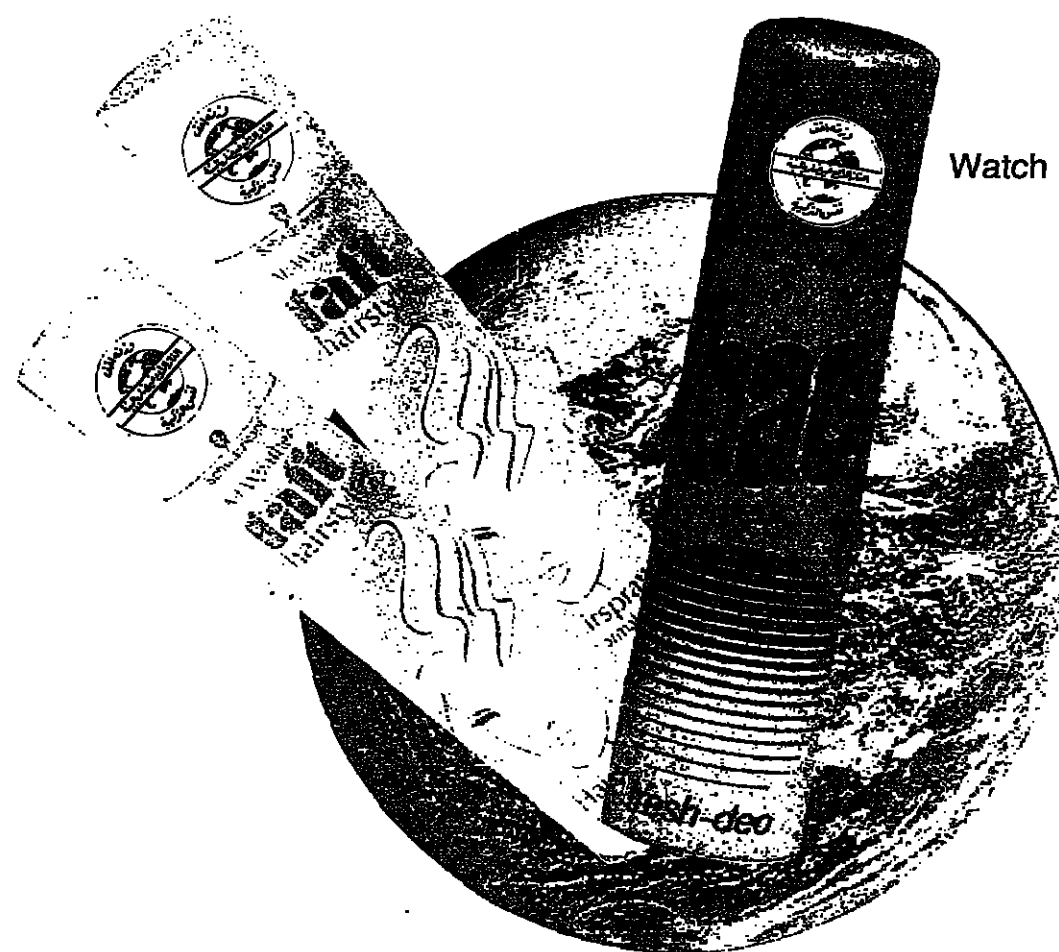
FILM

- ★ Two German films for children entitled "Peter List Sich Nicht Verkohlen" and "Nur Ein Tropfen Öl" at 4 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

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- ARABIC LANGUAGE

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Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Green, amber and red

SUMMERS IN Jordan bring out swarms of young Jordanian drivers to the streets of the capital and other cities. It seems that when schools are out, our young men take to the thoroughfares of cities with a vengeance and often drive as if they have a licence to kill. School summer vacations have barely begun but the traffic situation in Amman and elsewhere in the Kingdom has already deteriorated to the point that many drivers have become too scared to take the wheels of their vehicles.

Why our young generation of drivers still gets away with murder is something that calls for a thorough examination. Admittedly Jordanian traffic police feel inhibited from arresting young traffic violators simply because many of them are the sons of dignitaries who feel and act as if they are above the law. Unless and until the traffic authorities are given the green light to apply the law equally on all Jordanians, irrespective of their social, economic or political status, there is no hope that the carnage on our roads could end. All that the country needs is to set an example for the people by treating them all equally when there are serious traffic violations. Otherwise, there is no telling when our young drivers will heed the traffic laws and rules of the Kingdom and stop taking the lives of innocent people or causing mayhem.

If all fails, the government may well need to raise the minimum age for drivers. Driving a car is a very serious and dangerous business. As long as the youth in this country carry on with utter disregard for the lives of people, they must be asked to forfeit the privilege of operating an automobile altogether. Raising the minimum age for acquiring a driving licence to 21 offers great possibilities for ending the carnage on Jordan's streets and highways. Our authorities are invited to reflect on this prescription for improving the country's record on traffic safety especially if they are unable to stop kids with big "wasta" from driving so recklessly.

Meanwhile, the parents of young dangerous drivers are called upon to exercise much more caution before they give their kids the key of the family car. Family control can go a long way to ameliorate the traffic situation in Jordan and parents must be served with notice that unless they move effectively in the direction of making their children obey the rules of traffic, they will also be accountable for any crimes they commit, both legally and economically.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily drew a contrast between the general situation prevailing in the Arab World on the eve of the outbreak of the Great Arab Revolt, which Jordan celebrates on June 10, and that which is prevailing at the moment. The Great Arab Revolt, led by Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, broke out at a time when the enemies of the Arabs had believed that the nation was in slumber and would not rise again, said the daily. The Sharif of Mecca proved these enemies to be wrong when he led the revolt to unite and free the Arabs, said the paper. It said that history repeats itself as we hear King Hussein's calls to the Arabs to transcend their differences, and their divisions and join ranks to confront the common challenges. The King's call comes amidst a dark chapter in Arab history, with despair widespread because of the nation's weakness in repelling aggression, continued the daily. The Hashemite King, following in the footsteps of his ancestors, is spearheading efforts to end this dark era and is bearing the torch and the standards before the Arab Nation, the paper added. It said that the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, which Jordan just celebrates, are a reminder of these facts and serve as incentives for further endeavours to attain pan-Arab goals.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour said that a decision taken by the Islamic movement in Jordan, last week, to participate in the coming parliamentary elections under any circumstances, was tantamount to a green light to the government to enact a temporary election law replacing the existing one. Perhaps the Islamists' decision came as a surprise to many people who had thought that the Islamic movement would resist a new election law, said Taher Al Udwan. The decision, which was announced by the movement's spokesman Ibrahim Khreisat, can only corroborate the view that the Islamists would not be affected by new laws as they base the programme for the coming election campaign on such important issues as the outcome of the peace process, the writer noted. He said that the ball is now in the court of the other political parties which are expected to take their own decisions vis-a-vis a new election law. It should be noted, however, that though most of these parties are for changing the law, they do not favour the one-man-one-vote system, the writer continued. He said the nature of the election law to come will determine the type of democracy for the country.

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

RİYADH — Lotfi Alkhoul, one of Egypt's and the Arab World's best known Marxist writers, was dumbfounded in April to receive an invitation to Saudi Arabia, where his name has figured prominently on the blacklist for decades.

More surprising, Mr. Alkhoul received a red-carpet reception, was granted an audience with Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, and was invited by members of the royal family and other prominent Saudis to speak at public and private gatherings. During a speech in which Mr. Alkhoul argued that world values beyond Islam are components of contemporary Arab culture, a man in the audience stood up to yell, "Mr. Lotfi, repent to God!" But the fundamentalist critic was shouted down.

Mr. Alkhoul's invitation was part of a growing trend by traditionalist governments to turn to secularists and even Marxists to help battle fundamentalists determined to undermine established governments.

In Cairo, Tunis, Amman, Kuwait City, and perhaps most

surprisingly here in Saudi Arabia, which already applies one of the world's strictest Muslim codes, influential Arab voices are openly advocating secularism, modernisation and pluralism as values that belong alongside Islam.

Old-time leftists, kept under wraps for more than two decades, and younger, unabashedly pro-western Arabs, are bursting onto intellectual ground exclusively reserved for militant Islamists or Arab nationalists since the 1960s. They have the tacit, and sometimes overt, support of Arab ruling establishments concerned about the impact of extremists over social stability, international relations, economic progress, and their very existence.

The phenomenon of questioning the motives, aims, and methods of fundamentalism is evident this winter at Cairo's Book Fair. "Terrorism" and "Fundamentalism" became the topics of multiple debates at the two-week fair, and Islamists often found themselves on the defensive.

The debate behind the bloodshed and the pressure by religious conservatives for stricter adherence to fundamentalist principles

Identity debate

Many Arabs search for answers in a world beyond Islam

boils down to whether the religion can serve as a political, economic, and governmental model for society.

In the past year, the issue, sometimes referred to as the "identity debate," has come to occupy miles of newspaper and magazine pages and hundreds of television and radio hours.

"The crisis we live in is a vicious struggle between individuals, organised groups, and Arab regimes over the answer to fateful questions that deal with who we are: Are we Muslims? Are we Arab nationalists? Or are we all of this or parts of it," said Hamad Alturki, a professor of political science in King Saud University in Riyadh.

"People are tackling previously unheard questions such as how do we deal with concepts of the state and religion, how do we cope with the age we live in, and what should our relationship with the 'other,' be that other persons, other creeds, other states, or other thoughts," said Mr. Alturki, whose high profile as a liberal in Saudi Arabia has made him a regular target of fundamentalists.

Governments are demanding

that eminent Muslim scholars denounce the fundamentalists' violent grab for power as well as clarify their position over the hostility displayed by these movements towards the West and its influences.

"Extremist fundamentalism is the result of western behaviour over centuries that has been unfair to Muslims. Still, as an Arab Muslim, I do not want to see the collapse of America," said Maaruf Dawalibi, former prime minister of Syria and a leading Muslim advocate who took refuge in Saudi Arabia several decades ago.

The debate has become the subject of differences within the fundamentalist establishment itself.

In the past few months, senior Muslim scholars of great influence, including Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Baz, the blind cleric who is Saudi Arabia's most powerful religious figure, and Sheikh Mohammad Tawfiq, the head of Egypt's Islamic Jurisprudence, have openly sided with their governments, arguing strenuously that those who advocate violence to institute Islamic government are contravening the

spirit of Islam.

In this debate, Islamists of all stripes are wrestling with fundamental assumptions: Is the relationship with the West incompatible with Islam? Is pluralism in Arab politics banned by Islamic law? Can Islamic prohibitions against daily practices of the modern age, ranging from collecting interest on bank accounts, to banning women from driving, fit in with the 20th century?

In the end, the big question is whether the extremist interpretation of Islam can be a model for the future.

Mohammad Saeed Ashmawi, a judge in Egypt's Supreme Court, who has emerged as a principal figure in favour of tolerant interpretations of Islamic precepts, wrote recently: "Politicised Islamic groups proclaim Islam to be a nation when in fact Islam is a religion."

Makram Mohammad Ahmad, an Egyptian columnist who was the subject of a failed assassination attempt by Muslim terrorists, has taken this argument further in his recent writings, defending secularism as the value that must be adopted by Arab societies.

"The issue is not who will stand

up to the so-called 'atheist secularists,' he wrote, "because secularists are not necessarily non-believers but patriotic Arabs who, while remaining great believers in their religion, may see it necessary to separate the religion from the state."

The strongest militant Muslim belief challenged in this debate is the notion that the West is the cause of all Muslims' miseries.

This conviction is an extension of an ideological battle begun by the old left in the 1960s and picked up by the new religious right.

But that argument, which captured the imagination of millions of secular leftist Arabs as well as Muslim fundamentalists, is collapsing, too. Hazem Sagieh, a respected Lebanese journalist, has coined the phrase "Arab-Arab racism."

Documenting the cruelty and brutality of Muslims against Muslims — in Afghanistan, during the occupation of Kuwait, and in the terrorism undertaken in the name of Islam within various Arab countries — Mr. Sagieh has called upon Muslims to look inward before pointing fingers at others — New York Times.

Opposition reports cause little stir in Iran

By Youssef Azme

Reuter

TEHRAN — Reports by the opposition Mujahadeen Khalq of big raids against Iranian oil installations seemed to cause hardly a stir in Tehran last week.

Defence Minister Akbar Torjan would not confirm or deny the group's claims but told reporters Iran would strike again if necessary against exile bases across the border in Iraq.

Iranian analysts and foreign diplomats said although the group had from time to time succeeded in penetrating the 1,200 kilometres border, its sabotage attacks posed no serious threat to Iran's Islamic rulers.

"The Iranians tend to react violently to these attacks because, like any other government, they will not tolerate armed incursions across their borders," one western diplomat said. "But this does not indicate that the Mujahadeen pose a threat...they are more of an irritant than a threat," he added.

Iran responded two weeks ago to a spate of attacks by sending its fighter-bombers to hit Mujahadeen bases deep inside Iraq.

Mujahadeen spokesmen in Paris insist that recent attacks were planned and carried out by underground cells inside Iran — not from bases in Iraq.

The group, which fought on Iraq's side during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, maintains a well-funded army under President Saddam Hussein's protection.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates the force at 4,500 with about 100 captured tanks. Its latest raids were described as revenge attacks for an activist assassinated in Pakistan last Sunday. Iran has denied responsibility for the killing.

Before 1979 the Mujahadeen were an underground group which combined Islamic and leftist ideas and helped overthrow the pro-western Shah monarchy in 1979.

Leftist radicalism soon put them at odds with the clergy-dominated Islamic government that came to rule Iran under the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Iranian analysts say that popular support for the Mujahadeen inside the country evaporated when they allied themselves with Iraq.

"Hundreds of thousands of Iranians died in eight years of war with Iraq. How can Iranians have sympathy with a group sustained by Saddam," one said.

Mr. Torjan described them Tuesday as a "terrorist organisation backed by Iraq which is trying to destabilise the border area."

Diplomats say they may have been encouraged by Iraq to renew attacks in retaliation for Iranian support for Shiite rebels in Iraq's southern marshlands.

Iran has major oil installations very close to the southern border with Iraq. Diplomats say hit and run attacks across the frontier are not difficult, despite massive Iranian precautions.

"But this does not indicate that the Mujahadeen pose a threat... they are more of an irritant than a threat."

"Pipelines in particular are vulnerable. You cannot put a soldier along every inch of a long pipeline," one said.

The Mujahadeen say they destroyed 11 pipelines and caused over \$100 million in damage in the border provinces of Kermanshah and Khuzestan last Monday.

Diplomats do not dismiss Mujahadeen reports out of hand but say some of their claims in the past proved far-fetched or exaggerated.

The Mujahadeen appear to be getting some attention from President Bill Clinton's new administration in Washington, which diplomats say has taken a harder line against Iran's Islamic rulers than the previous administration under George Bush.

"They (the Mujahadeen) are nothing in Iran. Clinton would be backing the wrong horse if he thought they could provide an alternative to the mullahs," one European envoy said.



M. KAHIL

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Difficult task ahead of Majali's government

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local press last week dwelt on the peace process, coordination among Arab parties to the peace talks in light of the meeting in Amman and a host of domestic issues.

Al Ra'i daily said the Arabs are truly seeking peace with Israel but it would be most devastating to the cause of peace if Israel believes that the Arabs will accept a humiliating peace. The paper said that such a peace would not last, it would only serve as a truce that could be breached at any moment in the future.

The paper reminded Israel that despite its nuclear power and its arsenal of various types of sophisticated weapons, it could not withstand the battle of stones and knives waged by the Palestinian youth.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily expressed the view that the sixth round of talks in Washington led to good progress on the Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Jordanian tracks.

Fahd Al Fanek said that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, who had led the Jordanian team to the talks, realised this fact and was brave enough to announce that peace could come in November this year.

The writer said that it is incumbent on the other heads of governments involved in the talks to prepare their people for the coming peace.

In light of a foreign ministers' meeting in Amman last week, one is hopeful that the Arab parties will have a united stand in the coming talks, said Taher Udwan, a columnist in Al Dastour.

The writer said that this unity should be manifested in the Arab World's approach towards the peace process, but most importantly towards dealing with the United States which stands behind Israel's gain in the past eight rounds.

The writer urged the Arab governments to seek assurance

that Washington would be a truly full partner in the search for attainment of a just peace.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the United States should be told that it could not continue sponsoring the peace talks if it is determined to ignore the basic rights of the Palestinians. The writer said that Washington in the past few months had been directing more attention to the emigration of Syrian Jews to Israel than dealing with the continued Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

The Americans have been avoiding any reply to Palestinian demands for U.S. support to their legitimate rights in the coming round of negotiations and have been condoning Israel's arbitrary actions in the occupied territories, stressed the writer.

Abdul Rahim Omar, another columnist in Al Ra'i, cast doubt on Washington's claims that it would play the role of full partner in the coming round, as conveyed to Syria. The writer said observers have noted that the Americans were quick to uphold what they called international legitimacy in case of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but they chose to back the aggressors in violation of the same legitimacy in the case of Israel's continued aggression on and occupation of Arab lands.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dastour, criticised Parliament members, who, he said, are now aware of the fact that the government might introduce amendments to the election law but who had failed for four years to introduce amendments to that law themselves despite their knowledge that it was pocked with numerous holes, making it obsolete under the present circumstances.

The writer said that the deputies who are now opposing

change to the election law should have realised that they failed to introduce the change themselves, in accordance with the Constitution, when they were in a position to do so. Since the present law is not fair, said the writer, no one should oppose a government's move to address it and to put matters right.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the present election law does not cater to the requirements of political pluralism, neither does it help the government carry out its task of being fair and just to all the electorate.

Therefore, the writer said, the government ought to introduce amendments that deal with the shortcomings of the law and bring about equality and justice.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that while the preparations for the coming parliamentary elections are underway, the Arabs are gearing up for a decisive 10th round of talks with the Israelis in Washington.

The writer said that there is no doubt that the coming election campaign would be influenced by the progress or failure of the peace talks. He said that any selling out of Arab rights at the negotiations would have devastating consequences, with serious effects on the social, political and economic lives within the Arab World.

The immense responsibilities of the new government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali were discussed by columnist in the daily press.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that Mr. Majali has inherited a number of difficult tasks and issues, like decisions to be made concerning the sales tax and an agreement with the London Club to reschedule Jordan's external debts to commercial

institutions and banks.

The writer said that the government is expected to take difficult decisions that could not please every one but would safeguard national interests because it has no choice but to pursue the course of monetary, financial and economic reform.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the new government is called on to take decisive action with regard to the election law after consultations with political groups.

He said the government is also required to take important decisions related to the economic and financial situations and to pursue the economic restructuring programme as agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The writer said that the government would gain immense credibility in the eyes of the Jordanians public if it presented the facts clearly and paved the ground for the Jordanian citizens to accept new situations on the internal and external fronts.

Mohammad Subeishi, a columnist in Al Dastour, referred in his column to the barbaric crime committed by a young man against a nine-year-old boy called Muhammad who was abducted, sexually molested and murdered. The writer said that the only way to put an end to such crimes in the Jordanian society is through hanging the criminals in public.

Nabil Sharif, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that the tourism industry in Jordan suffers not because the people do not wish to take vacation, but because it is almost impossible for them to do so in light of the soaring prices of hotels and tourist services. The writer said that Jordanians prefer to go abroad for a holiday as they find it cheaper than spending in Amman and other tourist sites in Jordan which charge exorbitant prices.

Radios, timing point to well-planned Aideed attack

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU—It started as just a routine day. It ended as one of the bloodiest slaughters in U.N. peacekeeping history.

Dozens of gunmen, apparently keeping in contact by walkie-talkie, turned a stretch of road on the edge of Mogadishu into a killing zone where they pinned down a company of Pakistani soldiers and kept reinforcements at bay.

A simultaneous attack decimated troops guarding a food-distribution centre.

When it was all over more than five hours later, 23 Pakistani soldiers were dead and 59 wounded. At least 15 Somalis

also were killed.

The killings Saturday marked a new phase of the crisis in Somalia. It was an open challenge to the U.N. force left behind after the departure of the large, mainly U.S. force that had kept peace since late last year.

How the U.N. force deals with the aftermath of the slaughter, and whether its authority can be restored, will help to determine the future of the international effort that has saved millions of Somalis from starvation.

U.N. officials are still piecing together the details. But accounts from military witnesses suggest the massacre was far more brutal and better coordinated than officials

thought.

Officials had given warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed, who controls southern Mogadishu, advance written notice last Friday that they planned to inspect the five sites where he has been allowed to keep weapons and former militia-men.

General Aideed long has been critical of the presence of foreign troops in Somalia, accusing them of favouritism in the country's factional disputes. But for the most part, his militia-men have kept away from the multinational military operation that began in Somalia in December.

The inspection of a site north of 21 October Road went smoothly. But as the group of

more than 130 soldiers approached 21 October just after 10 a.m. (1700 GMT) they came under fire from three directions from .50-calibre machine guns, assault rifles and small arms.

The Pakistanis' primary mode of transport — open pickup trucks — provided little protection. At least one bullet pierced one of the few armoured cars. Flak jackets only slowed the heavy ammunition.

Pakistan's headquarters in Somalia is at a soccer stadium less than a kilometre away, where noise from the pitched firefight carried easily.

Reinforcements scrambled to provide support. As they encountered roadblocks of

burning tyres, large rocks and rusting car parts, other snipers opened up from rooftops on both sides of the road, cutting off the rescue attempt. Side routes also were blocked.

At the same time, 13 lightly armed Pakistanis guarding a food distribution site near the radio station Gen. Aideed controls came under fire.

Several died quickly, others, some of them wounded, found shelter. Conserving ammunition, they fought back for three hours before they ran out of bullets.

The troops also were hindered by what they called a terrorist tactic: Gunmen used women and children as shields because they knew the soldiers would not shoot.

The Pakistani commander

climbed into a helicopter around 10:35 (1735 GMT) to assess the scenes. At 11:20 (1820 GMT), he called U.N. military headquarters. Two minutes later, the Quick Reaction Force — America's biggest contribution to the multinational operation — was called in to help.

Hundreds of Americans left the former U.S. embassy compound by 11:35 (1845 GMT), but their arrival was delayed as they, too, became targets for the gunmen. Three were wounded.

Finally, at 3 p.m. (2200 GMT), they linked up with the surviving Pakistanis. Reinforcements and Italian tanks from northern Mogadishu also provided security. Mop-up work continued for two hours

before dusk forced the troops to pull out.

Six Pakistanis initially were missing, but five were released Monday by Gen. Aideed and said they had not been mistreated. There have been several false reports that the body of the sixth has been sighted.

Gen. Aideed has denied responsibility for the bloodbath, accusing the Pakistanis of provoking the attack by seizing his

radio station and opening fire on defenceless civilians.

Pakistan's deputy commander, Colonel Asif Durrani, vehemently denied Gen. Aideed's charges.

U.N. officials are investigating the incident to determine who was responsible but privately say there is little doubt Gen. Aideed orchestrated it out of desperation because his influence has been waning.



STEPPED UP VIGIL: Pakistani soldiers patrol a Mogadishu suburb Thursday amid high tension. Pakistani soldiers were killed (AFP photo)

Way cleared for debt rescheduling talks

(Continued from page 1)

only affects households which consume more than 300 kilowatts per month, a rate seen applicable only to low-income groups and small-scale industries. Consumers with less than 300 kilowatts per month consumption represent 83 per cent of the consumption sector in the country, Mr. Asfour said.

The exemption granted to the agricultural sector, Mr. Asfour said, was in line with the government's policy supporting and encouraging farmers to increase output. The sector already receives a 40 per cent subsidy for its power consumption, the minister said.

Mr. Gammo said the amendments and additions to the consumption tax structure and the increase in electricity tariffs completed a series of measures that Jordan was obliged to implement under its agreement with the IMF.

"We have completed our side of the agreement and are now trying to fix dates for the debt-rescheduling negotiations suitable for all parties," the finance minister said. "Hopefully the negotiations could be held this month."

Mr. Gammo confirmed that the steering committee of the London Club of commercial creditors "has forwarded an acceptable formula" on resche-

duling and converting Jordan's estimated \$1 billion commercial debts.

The minister did not give details, but well-informed economist Fahed Fanek wrote last week that the formula represents a better deal than ever secured by a Third World debtor and meant a 58.5 per cent reduction in Jordan's commercial debts spread over a period of 30 years. The expected agreement follows four years of negotiations.

The Paris Club, which groups creditor governments and government lending agencies, holds around \$4.5 billion in Jordan's total external debts of \$7 billion. The rest is owed to Russia, former East bloc states and Arab lending agencies in addition to the London Club.

The Kingdom has already rescheduled debt payments due to Paris Club by June 1993 by 15 to 20 years and will seek similar or better terms for payments due by the end of 1995

or mid-1996.

Simultaneous with its rescheduling efforts, Jordan is also seeking debt relief and increased assistance from European Community (EC) member countries.

According to Western diplomats in Amman, Jordan's negotiations with the Paris Club are not expected to be difficult or pose any major problems, but outright write-off of all or part of the Kingdom's debts may not be easy.

"Most of the European governments are sympathetic to Jordan and appreciate its moderate political stands and they would like to help," one of the diplomats said. "But the problem is that they cannot come up with any across-the-board write-off since such a formula would set precedents that other Third World debtors could cite and demand."

Switzerland has agreed to convert Jordan's \$8 million debts owed to Bern into outright grant.

A pensioner in his 80s who cast a blank ballot said he was afraid of trouble if he did not have the stamp when he presented his identity papers at his frequent dealings with the bureaucracy.

Rafsanjani

(Continued from page 1)

ple were seen voting for Mr. Tavakkoli and none for Mr. Taheri.

Some voters were seen casting blank ballot papers, apparently to

obtain a stamp on their identity documents proving they had voted.

Some voters were seen casting blank ballot papers, apparently to

Stage set for Mogadishu showdown

(Continued from page 1)

ment in Somalia.

Gen. Aideed, flanked by his closest supporters in the Somali National Alliance (SNA), began his news conference by punching the air with a clenched fist and chanting "Allahu Akbar" three times.

But in a conciliatory gesture, Gen. Aideed said aid workers evacuated from Mogadishu should return and those who killed the Pakistanis last Saturday should be brought to justice.

"The terrible incident should be investigated thoroughly and those responsible brought to justice," he said.

Gen. Aideed called for an independent investigation by someone other than the United Nations. He said he would abide by its findings.

He said he regretted he had no contact with UNOSOM officials for two days and called for more dialogue. "We need UNOSOM forces to help us... we value highly the presence of UNOSOM forces and do not wish them any ill," he said.

The U.N. Security Council, without mentioning Gen. Aideed by name, has told UNOSOM it wants the killers and the men behind them brought to justice.

Gen. Aideed said he was not concerned by the resolutions because any impartial inquiry would clear his name and find that U.N. troops fired first on women and children.

Gen. Aideed says as Somalis were killed and 350 wounded after the Pakistanis' "Blue Helicopters," supported by U.S. troops, tried to seize his radio station.

The U.N. version says Gen. Aideed was informed of a routine inspection of a weapon storage site and the Pakistanis were ambushed as they returned to their military compound.

UNOSOM has accused Gen. Aideed of inciting Somalis and trying to generate anti-U.N. sentiment by broadcasting false propaganda.

Gen. Aideed at the terrace news conference sat beside another warlord, his ally Omar Jess, whose forces were recently driven out of the southern port city of Kismayu by fighters loyal to ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre's son-in-law Mohammad Said Hersi, known as General Morgan.

Both warlords said the United Nations was continuing to attack Somalis. Gen. Aideed said Pakistanis had shot dead a Somali.

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Germany breaks EC ranks in surprise trade deal with U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Germany broke ranks with the European Community (EC) Thursday to strike a surprise telecommunications deal with the United States, averting sanctions on both sides.

The bilateral deal, which flies in the face of EC unity, caught European officials off guard. Rattled European officials said the split in their ranks was a dangerous precedent.

"We reached an agreement with the German government that they would not adopt discriminatory telecommunications practices," said U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

"We have agreed to not invoke sanctions," Mr. Kantor said.

Last month, the United States imposed sanctions on nine of the 12 EC members, saying they discriminated against outsiders in government procurement of telecommunications equipment.

The European Community retaliated, but Mr. Kantor said since Germany had agreed to end its discrimination, neither set of sanctions would apply between the United States and Germany.

"We have shown that by working with our European trading partners we can open markets and move forward," he said.

Mr. Kantor announced the surprise deal at a congressional hearing on government procurement, which has long been a sore point in trans-Atlantic trade relations.

Brussels was caught utterly short by the news, with no immediate reaction from its EC counterpart, Sir Leon Brittan. An EC spokeswoman also declined comment.

With a holiday in Germany, its officials were unavailable for comment.

The dispute centres on access to government bids.

At the start of this year the EC adopted a new rule favouring European companies over outsiders in bidding for utilities contracts. Washington insisted the rule must go while Brussels said it first wanted fairer access to U.S. government business at the federal, state and local level.

The row — while it focused on telecommunications and heavy electrical equipment — had threatened to escalate into a far bigger tit-for-tat between the

world's biggest trading blocs.

But a partial deal emerged in April and both sides scaled back the rhetoric and imposed limited sanctions only.

On May 28, the United States imposed curbs on the EC that cost the bloc about \$20 million in lost business. The EC swiftly retaliated with sanctions worth about \$15 million.

Exempt from the U.S. sanctions from the start were Portugal, Spain and Greece, which were not party to the EC rule on utilities and which all agreed not to discriminate.

Now Germany, which had signed onto the EC directive, has won an exemption: A fact not lost on its European partners.

"To say the least, this is most unusual. We thought the Germans were supposed to be very keen on Community solidarity," said a European official on condition of anonymity. "There will no doubt be debate in Brussels."

The official could not recall an occasion when an EC member broke ranks to strike an outside deal that appears to violate the Community's own rules.

A violation could lead to internal EC proceedings against Germany, an official said, but a U.S. negotiator said Germany believed it had broken no EC rules.

"Shocking. This is a very serious matter," said another European official, noting that Germany had gone along with the EC stance throughout the debate.

Simultaneously, however, it was apparently working a secret deal with the Americans right over the head of the EC.

Mr. Kantor said the Germans approached him about the telecommunications dispute and that both sides discussed the matter in Paris last week, striking an agreement by telephone Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Kantor said he hoped to clinch more deals with other EC members but had no indications further pacts were forthcoming.

"We're just hoping that this sets a precedent," he said.

That is just what Europe dreads and one official said Brussels would be so angered by the secret bilateral deal that it might hurt Mr. Kantor in Europe more than it helps him.

Flawed OPEC deal sends oil prices reeling

GENEVA (R) — Markets gave OPEC a thumbs-down signal by pushing oil prices sharply lower after Kuwait rejected the producer group's new plan to hold production steady and instead vowed to pump as much crude as it thought fit.

Unable to satisfy Kuwait's demand that it be allowed to boost its production by at least a quarter, the other 11 OPEC members decided to keep their pumps running at the same levels through to the end of September.

The tumultuous end to three days of OPEC strategy talks Thursday lopped 30 cents off a barrel of North Sea Brent crude futures in London, and even more off U.S. spot crudes.

But dealers and analysts held

differing views over whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had done itself lasting damage by feuding in public. Some said prices were set for a slow recovery.

"There is a feeling that the market has overreacted. I think that we may see it go up tomorrow as long as we can hold support at \$17.95," one London-based trader said.

Prices in fact closed at \$17.96 for a barrel of the benchmark Brent.

Others were less sure crude oil could stage a comeback.

Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates in Chicago, said the agreement was likely to push prices lower.

"I view it as a bearish deal," he said. "Kuwait has unused capacity and if they produce at will, it is a very fragile agreement. If Kuwait overproduces, others may be tempted as well."

The crux of OPEC's debate was Kuwait's demand that the group honour a promise it made in February to let the emirate boost output significantly starting on July 1.

That was the pledge Kuwait extracted from other members at their last meeting in return for agreeing to rejoin OPEC's quota system, which it ignored while it rebuilt oil fields recreating Iraqi troops set alight in the 1991 Gulf war.

But other members, led by Iran

and concerned that extra output could drag prices even lower, balked at Kuwait's demand that it crank up its production by at least a quarter.

They offered to let it boost production by 10 per cent while they passed up any increase for themselves, but — rebuffed by a determined Kuwaiti delegation — they then decided to freeze their current output ceiling until the end of September.

Markets took the public discord in OPEC's ranks as a signal to sell.

But Michael Rothman, senior commodity analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York, said the deal would probably help boost prices even if some members disregarded their assigned quotas.

"I think it is a good agreement from the perspective of the supply and demand balance, even with the likely amount of overproduction in the third quarter," he said.

Assuming Iraqi crude exports remain blocked by U.N. economic sanctions, petroleum companies will not have much excess oil in the market with which to build their reserves, he said.

"This should help firm the oil balance and allow prices to rise through the third quarter," Mr. Rothman said.

The balance between supply and demand could get even tighter as demand rises with the onset of the northern hemisphere's winter, testing OPEC's capacity to keep markets supplied with crude, he said.

Indonesia reforms get muted praise

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's new cabinet has signalled it is serious about reforming the country's high-cost economy, but analysts say the results of the latest deregulations may not be as impressive.

The government Thursday slashed a wide range of tariffs and promised to open up some of the most protected of Indonesia's industries.

"There are some qualitative changes in government policies. They used to impose restrictions... but now they do things through incentives and reduction of duties," former finance minister Frans Seda told the Kompas daily.

"They want to give the impression that they are serious," one foreign economist said, adding that the real impact had yet to be assessed and may not in the short term be that substantial.

The reforms are the first since a package of measures almost exactly a year ago that were derided as almost entirely cosmetic and sparked fears the government was bowing to vested interests and putting deregulation on the backburner.

"The government has sent a signal it is going to deregulate but it will be gradual," another economist said.

This time there is a new cabinet and the more immediate prospect that foreign aid may be on the decline.

While around \$5 billion in fresh aid is almost a certainty, the latest measures are bound to bring cheer to donors and more willingness to keep aid at the higher levels in future.

Russia applies to join GATT

MOSCOW (R) — Russia applied formally Friday for membership of the world trading body GATT and said it hoped a decision would be made by the end of this year.

President Boris Yeltsin handed a formal application to Arthur Dunkel, secretary-general of the Geneva-headquartered General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) saying Russia needed access to European and world markets.

"We can't do without the help of your organisation," he said in a brief Kremlin ceremony.

"I hope you will not put this on the back burner until the end of the decade," Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Dunkel with a broad smile. "I hope you will take a decision by the end of 1993."

Moscow, which faced an array of trade barriers and restrictions during the decades of the cold war, is desperate to become integrated into the world economy.

World Bank Moscow economist Denis Kiselev said most restrictions would be lifted once Russia joined GATT, enabling its firms to gain a foothold in Western markets.

"For Russian industry this is very important," he said.

Pakistan needs strong budget, economists say

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's newly restored government must take some unpopular decisions next week such as taxing agriculture and slashing defence spending if it is to balance its books, economists say.

But reformist Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif may balk at ramming through such tough policies in his 1993/94 (July-June) budget, due on June 14, for fear of eroding a fragile powerbase just weeks after he was summarily sacked and abruptly reinstated.

"This budget must address the problem of laxity in financial management," one Western economist said.

Western donors are counting on stiff new taxes to boost revenue and belt-tightening.

The deficit will hit 7.0 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992/93, exceeding forecasts by 1.5 per cent, or about 100 billion rupees (\$3.7 billion) compared with a forecast 65 billion (\$2.4 billion), Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said Thursday.

The World Bank has cited Pakistan's repeated failure to cut substantially its fiscal shortfall as possibly its most serious economic problem.

"On the revenue side their main task should be to introduce an agricultural tax and to expand the tax net," the economist said.

"On the expenditure they must tackle defence spending."

Economists say introduction of a tax on agriculture, which accounts for about 35 per cent of Pakistan's economy and has always been exempt, would be a major breakthrough.

Economists question whether Mr. Sharif can find the political will to implement a tax that is fiercely opposed by Pakistan's powerful feudal landlords.

An agriculture tax has been hotly debated since Pakistan was founded 45 years ago, and consistently avoided by the national assembly, where half the 217 seats are occupied by landowners.

"An agriculture tax will go a long way to rectify the structural imbalance in the tax system and lay the ground for more equitable forms of taxation," the Western economist said.

Officials hint that a tax, possibly indirect, is on the cards for farmers and landlords.

"There is a higher probability of some kind of agriculture tax this year than ever before," said one official who declined to be named.

Other taxes could include a sales tax that might also bring the services sector into the net.

Western experts estimate the deficit at closer to 7.5 per cent, and blamed problems in the first half of the year.

Most serious were the floods last September that slashed the vital cotton crop by 29 per cent.

resulted in agriculture growth of minus 3.0 per cent and helped to halve economic growth to 3.5 per cent.

An opposition pledge to oust Mr. Sharif's reformist government paralysed the administration for two months in November and December and the political instability in the second half exacerbated the difficulties, economists say.

"This is a growth-oriented government, they have a planning mentality," the Western economist said. "But you can't ignore the other side of the equation, and they have not been prudent financial managers. They have to strike a balance."

Government borrowing soared in the first half, hitting 60 billion rupees (\$2.2 billion). Stringent controls imposed by the finance ministry brought the full year total at the end of May to a more manageable 64 billion rupees, officials say.

Defence spending and debt servicing consume almost all tax and non-tax revenues, leaving little money for development in a country where literacy is below 30 per cent and the population growth rate is 3.1 per cent a year, among the world's fastest.

"If they can keep defence below inflation that would be a very important step," another economist said. Inflation last year was 12 per cent and between 9.5 and 10 per cent this year.

New York Times buys the Boston Globe

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times will acquire the Boston Globe for \$1.1 billion under an agreement approved Thursday by the boards of both companies, the Times reported in Friday's editions.

The deal, which must still be approved by shareholders of both publicly traded companies, provides that the Globe would retain its management and editorial autonomy. Both the Globe and the Times are among the few large American newspapers remaining under family control.

The purchase price, to be paid largely in the stock of the New York Times Co., would be the highest ever for an American newspaper, the Times quoting securities analysts.

Nigeria's next president seen facing uphill task

ABUJA (R) — Whoever wins the presidential election in Nigeria will face a daunting task to halt the country's economic decline, let alone deliver on generous campaign pledges, analysts say.

Sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy is groaning under the weight of woes including corruption, mismanagement, crumbling public utilities, low productivity, rampant inflation and a battered currency. Many Nigerians say they are disillusioned.

"Everyday we see the country going down the drain," the lamented Victor Jegede, an official of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, expressing a personal view.

"I don't know how long Nigerians can continue to tolerate this situation," he told Reuters.

Moshood Abiola, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) candidate, and Bashir Tafa, the National Republican Convention (NRC) flag-bearer have in two months of campaign speeches and media jingles raised some hope among Nigerians that the end of military rule will bring a change to the economic fortunes of the country.

Mr. Abiola has pledged to banish poverty, create millions of new jobs in two years and build 50,000 housing units in each of Nigeria's nearly 700 local council areas if elected.

"I shall renew hope in the Nigerian dream through the articulation and pursuit of a new vision," Mr. Abiola, 55, said in a television broadcast.

Mr. Tafa, a 45-year-old bank chairman, in his television broadcast said an NRC government would tackle immediately the problems of food production, education, health, public transport, unemployment and crime.

"We must focus on solutions that will provide quick relief to the untold hardships being suffered by millions of our countrymen and women," he said.

Both candidates pledge to cut government budget deficit, strengthen the naira, help cash-strapped industries to increase productivity and persuade Western creditors to ease the burden of Nigeria's roughly \$28 billion owed by the nation.

The military government's seven-year-old structural adjustment programme has failed to heal the ailing economy.

Hardships have multiplied since a 41 per cent currency devaluation in March 1992 sent inflation soaring above 80 per cent and crippled import-dependent producers.

In the past few months incessant electric power cuts and fuel shortages have hit people and businesses in the country.

Many economists praise the declarations of the two tycoon-candidates. But they say it is difficult to see how the policies of the new president will differ from those of the outgoing military rulers.

Western creditors and some local businessmen say economic reform has yielded unimpressive results in Nigeria because of shoddy handling rather than inadequate policy.

"It has been a problem of management rather than one of policy," a Lagos-based Western banker said.

"That's why investors will wait to see what the next government does rather than commit themselves on promises of the candidates," he added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to re-examine your budget and to avoid going off on any tangent that could reduce in value that you have worked so hard to put together. Use your ingenuity and everything is fine. Credit checks work out in your advantage.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19) Today finds you with the chance to do a good job at your work rather at home, office, place of business, etc. but tonight don't go off on a tangent.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is the day when you can make arrangements for some happy entertainment so arrange during the daytime, tonight pay that obligation that irks you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Lots of things you have wished to do for home or family are possible during the day but tonight avoid a place of amusement where a fracas could occur.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever shopping, correspondence, desk work etc. you have to do can be efficiently done in the morning, after which don't get in a family argument.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a fine chance now to get your money and other mundane matters in good shape so you have more abundance but tonight avoid accidents in motion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can make big inroads into getting the various personal things you want so don't put off longer and in the evening maintain the status quo of finances.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get it into whatever is of an intimate nature that you want to improve and you have big success but in the evening don't push your own personal desire.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Very discriminating and selective friends can give you excellent ideas for gaining your wishes, then look into quiet work to be done by yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to get much done as the business week close to get out in the world and do all you can, tonight don't yield to displays of temper.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now find interesting conditions under which you can advance your deepest needs after which a secret worry can cause tonight to be disappointing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for much information by which you can get approval and help from a businessperson where and when you need it; tonight don't go after a strange wish.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your day to engage in conversation with an associate until you reach a real meeting of minds, tonight don't go out on the town for pleasure.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"The pizza delivery kid doesn't like to be teased about the mustache he's trying to grow."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SLUPH

MARFE

FESTOF

NATFUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUEDE LILAC ABBOTT RARITY

Answer: What some people travel in while remaining at home. — JETLIPS

Peanuts

THE NEXT GUY IS THEIR BEST HITTER... EVERY TIME HE'S UP, HE HITS A HOME RUN...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HOLD ON TO THE BALL UNTIL HE GOES AWAY

Andy Capp

MAYBE SHE MIGHT SEE ME IN A BETTER LIGHT NOW THAT SHE'S BACK FROM HER HOLIDAYS. EN, JACK?

COULD BE TRUE—

TRAVEL BROADENS THE MIND, EN, DEAR?

—IT ALSO FLATTENS THE FINANCES— NOW PUSH OFF!!

Mutt'n' Jeff

POW! BIFF! BAM! WHACK!

THIS GUY'S SOCKING YOU ALLOVER THE RING AND YOU AINT STRUCK A BLOW YET!

DON'T WORRY MUTT! I'LL GET HIM SOON!

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE, JEFF! YOU HAVEN'T HIT THIS GUY ONCE YET!

AND HE'S HITTING YOU WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT!

SURE! THAT'S IT! HOW MUCH LONGER CAN HE LAST?

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1 Check

4 Greek cheese

8 Jackson's dog

11 Swinging

12 Star

14 Nervous cell part

15 Miscellaneous

16 S

18 Soreak blunty

19 Undeniable

20 Norwegian saint

21 Highway

22 Division

23 Undid

25 Carapaces

29 Nav off

30 Gasher's output

31 Without — in the world

32 Reluctant

33 Stuck, sort of

34 Use every

35 means

37 Blon

38 Is worthy of

39 Mawush

40 More weigned

41 Secondmost of

44 Author Amble

45 Less civil

46 Gusto

47 Moonstone

49 Clearly useful

51 Go the cycle

55 Preval

56 Sees, calls or covers

57 Cultivator

58 Pung

59 Pull a leg

60 It can be bitter

DOWN

1 Fall

2 Front

3 Conductors

4 What's in store

5 Wipe the slate

6 Whin

7 Ban or ban

8 White poplar

9 Cass unit

10 Some spect

11 Actor Ely

12 Of the same

13 Get a

16 Sparks

18 Sultan of

23 Sultan of

24 Spruck

26 Hard to

27 Shank

28 Sator, rom

30 In a gesture

31 Hurdle

32 Overturn master

33 Common article

34 Far from top

35 Horse god

36 Rhine leader

37 Common article

40 Moro tribe

41 Rank

42 — O ship of

43 Added to the pot

45 Quid's

46 Slip up

48 — up (eniven)

50 Plutur

51 Big Star state

52 Eggs

53 After

54 Durocher or

55 Gann

IMF holds up loan for Russia, angering Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus has held up approval of a key \$1.5 billion loan for Russia in a surprisingly tough stance that has drawn the ire of Moscow and Washington, monetary sources said Thursday.

They said Mr. Camdessus wanted Russia to take some action to put its battered economy in shape before submitting the loan to the IMF board for approval.

The delay has sparked accusations that Mr. Camdessus is undercutting Russia's reform-minded Deputy Prime Minister Boris Yefimov, who has been counting on speedy approval of the loan to buttress his position in the government.

"This will damage him (Yefimov) in the eye of the prime minister," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Monetary sources said Mr. Camdessus had tentatively agreed to submit the loan to the IMF board on July 2, but they stressed that date was not definite.

That would be in time for the economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in Tokyo on July 7-9.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to meet leaders of the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — at the summit, and U.S. officials have said they want the IMF loan approved by then.

The delay in the loan has caused consternation among some U.S. officials eager to show Russia that it has international support for its tough reforms, monetary sources said.

IMF staff and the Russian authorities agreed on May 22 on an economic reform programme that was designed to pave the way for the \$1.5 billion loan under the fund's so-called systemic transformation facility.

That programme calls for Russia to tighten its grip on its public finances and dramatically increase interest rates to slash the monthly inflation rate to five per cent by the end of 1993 from more than 20 per cent earlier this year.

It is not clear why Mr. Camdessus has taken such a tough stance toward Russia. But some sources suggested that he wanted to avoid a repeat of the IMF's experience with Russia last year, when the fund loaned Moscow \$1 billion, only to have the country fail to carry out its promise to rein in inflation.

That failure stemmed mostly from the unwillingness of the central bank to tighten credit and raise interest rates.

Under the most recent plan, the Russian Central Bank has agreed to raise its key "rediscount" interest rate close to levels prevailing in the interbank market by July 15.

That was not an easy decision as the higher rates are likely to squeeze industry hard and could boost unemployment.

The central bank made a start in raising rates in recent days, increasing its rediscount rate to 110 per cent from 100 per cent. But the rate is still well below market levels of around 150 to 160 per cent.

Mr. Camdessus may be waiting for the central bank to make further progress towards that goal before submitting the loan to the fund's board for approval, monetary sources said.

Under the IMF's systemic transformation facility, countries

with high or accelerating inflation must take action to stabilise monetary conditions before they can borrow money.

Monetary sources said, however, that Russia had complained that such preconditions were not mentioned in the agreement it reached with IMF staff in Moscow on May 22.

Mr. Camdessus's critics also argue that inflation in Russia has already shown signs of easing, thanks to earlier actions taken by the central bank.

That is when our (oil) dependence on the East will finish," Vladimir Dlouby was quoted by the daily Lidove Noviny as saying.

The so-called Ingolstadt pipeline will break the Czechs' total dependence on pipelines from Russia and Yugoslavia through Slovakia, which, with the Czech Republic, formed Czechoslovakia until the two split in January 1993.

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European currencies, inflation and E. Europe top BIS agenda

ZURICH (R) — Inflationary dangers, European monetary union and aid to eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union will top the agenda when central bankers from around the world meet in Switzerland this weekend.

International monetary sources also say that delegates, gathering for the annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, might consider capital adequacy questions and the yen's recent surge to record high values.

A major concern is the future of European economic and monetary union (EMU) following currency market turbulence in the latter part of 1992 in Europe, resulting in the worst foreign exchange market crisis since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, one senior monetary source said.

"The Dances may have voted in favour of the Maastricht treaty (on political, economic and monetary union), but there are still plenty of loose ends in European monetary union," he added.

The BIS meeting is not a policy-making forum, but it gives officials from its 32 shareholder central banks and delegations from other countries an opportunity to exchange views on international monetary issues.

Future links between the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) currency grid and sterling and the lira, which were both forced out of the system by speculative pressure last September, are certain to be discussed.

Another pressing issue is the future site of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), forerunner of an EC-wide central bank which should be set up by 1996 under the Maastricht treaty.

Although the bankers have no formal say in the EMI's site, they must be concerned that a decision is still pending just six months before the EMI is due to start operations.

Fear of inflation will be high on the agenda of talks that bankers hold during informal talks.

German consumer inflation, at 4.2 per cent, is among the highest in the EC and is keeping the Bundesbank from making further cuts in relatively high domestic interest rates, the burden of which the rest of Europe is also bearing.

Delegations from Russia, the Baltic states and several Eastern European nations are expected to make cases for more improved Western assistance.

Another concern emphasised in the report was that aid for the poor was being deflected into other areas. "In the majority of donor countries commercial and political objectives are more important than reducing poverty," the spokeswoman added.

Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands gave the highest official aid as a percentage of GDP, while Spain, the United States, Ireland and Greece were among the lowest.

Washington, Japan, France and Germany had the highest official aid volume in 1991, the report added.

It uncovered huge disparities in targeting. "Egypt and Nicaragua both received more than 400 per cent person in 1989, four times as much as Somalia and 20 times as much as Bangladesh."

priority within governments," a spokeswoman for the charity said. "It's time something was done to solve this situation."

The report found that only five of the 20 major donor nations have reached a United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) and four of them were considering cutbacks.

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U.N. calls feuding presidents to Geneva talks

Muslim convoy mortared after British shoot Croat attackers

VITEZ, Bosnia (R) — The lead trucks in a huge Muslim relief convoy came under mortar fire in central Bosnia Friday after British troops shot dead two Croat gunmen who attacked it, killing two drivers, U.N. officials said.

The mortar barrage occurred with much of the 200-truck "convoy of joy" stalled by Croat ambushes carried out to avenge a Muslim army offensive in central Bosnia that killed and displaced thousands of Bosnian Croats.

A U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman in Zagreb said that after British and Croat soldiers traded fire in Vitez, the first 24 lorries in the convoy proceeded eastward on a mountain road without a U.N. escort.

"The ill-fated convoy then met with further resistance when 24 of the trucks were stopped at Nova Bila and hit by mortars," the spokesman said.

He had no immediate word on casualties, damage or the fate of the trucks.

U.N. military sources said British troops accompanying the convoy through Vitez fired back after losing out warning shots when their armoured cars and the lead aid truck were repeatedly shot at by Croat soldiers.

"We confirm we hit two Croats and they are believed to have been killed. A third, armed with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, escaped," one source said.

Earlier U.N. sources had reported three Croats killed when they opened fire on convoy trucks. The latest report was the first word that the Croat gunmen had fired at British escort vehicles.

Two convoy drivers were killed during the shootout, one at close range. He lay slumped to one side, blood splattered across the cab.

Leaders to meet

Meanwhile, the presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia agreed to meet in Geneva next week to discuss steadily worsening violence in former Yugoslavia, international mediators said Friday.

Envoys David Owen and Thorwald Stoltenberg met Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic to discuss increased inter-communal fighting in Bosnia and rising tensions between Croatia and rebel Serbs occupying a third of its territory.

Mr. Owen said Mr. Milosevic, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia had agreed to attend in Geneva, probably next Wednesday.

"We have to look increasingly at the issue of Bosnia and Croatia and Serbia and that is why I think it is appropriate we have the three presidents talking to each other," he added.

"It is apparent to everybody the savagery and degree to which this is becoming unfortunately a fight between the three constituent peoples."

Mr. Stoltenberg said it was "of imperative importance to keep the initiative and that is why we are constantly in touch with the parties concerned to stop this atrocity."

NATO offer welcomed

In Athens, former communist states threw their weight Friday behind NATO plans to provide

air cover for U.N. troops in Bosnia, but there was no immediate pledge from Russia to send troops to help guard Muslim safe areas.

German State Secretary Dieter Kastrup said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told a meeting of NATO and former Warsaw pact states his country would take part in planned joint peacekeeping ventures in the future.

But Mr. Kozyrev's remarks to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) did not necessarily mean the Russian government, facing strong opposition from pro-Serb conservatives, would send a contingent to Bosnia, Mr. Kastrup told reporters.

Russia and other East European states are under pressure from Western allies at the one-day NACC meeting to help out with much-needed troops for the safe areas plan endorsed by a U.N. Security Council vote a week ago.

"We put the request to Kozyrev, but there's been no reaction so far," Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta told journalists.

Mr. Kastrup quoted a communiqué to be issued later by the NACC as saying: "We commend NATO's decision yesterday... to offer its protective air power" for the six havens, where the presence of U.N. forces is meant to deter attacks by besieging Serbs.

The offer, which would allow NATO planes to bomb the Serbs if the U.N. troops came under attack, is a significant new step by the West towards military involvement in the almost two-year-old Yugoslav civil war, diplomats said.

They said Russia, which devised the safe areas plan along with the United States, Britain, France and Spain, would be pressed further on troops at separate meetings with Western ministers including U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

U.S. deploys troops

About 300 U.S. troops are expected to arrive in Macedonia next week to join a U.N. peacekeeping force there. Washington's first commitment of ground forces in the former Yugoslavia.

At NATO meeting in Athens, the United States earlier Thursday offered to send the troops to join a 700-strong Nordic monitoring force to help prevent the spread of civil war.

"I would think in the next week or so they would be on the ground," Defence Department spokesman Bob Hall told reporters in Washington.

President Bill Clinton said Thursday that putting the U.S. troops in the international monitoring force in Macedonia was a chance to limit the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

"We've said all along that we would support the United Nations in limiting the conflict. It's a very limited thing. No combat, but a chance to limit the conflict," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

The United States has said repeatedly it will not put troops into Bosnia unless they are a part of any force used to police a final peace agreement between Serbs, Muslims and Croats involved in the civil war.

Rutskoi strengthens his resolve not to resign

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi said Friday he will not resign even after two months of being snubbed by President Boris Yeltsin.

The Russian president stripped Mr. Rutskoi of his privileges and responsibilities in April after the vice-president denounced Mr. Yeltsin's declaration of special rule.

But at a press conference called by the Moscow foreign press association Mr. Rutskoi said he would fight on to make his voice heard.

He also announced that a new centrist political block of 36 parties and movements would be created in July, with one of the pillars being his own Free Russia Party.

He said the country's vice-president was being completely ignored, as if he just did not exist, which amounted to nothing more than a denial of the very democracy that everyone was so proud of.

In March Mr. Rutskoi opposed Mr. Yeltsin's abortive attempt to introduce direct presidential rule and as a result the president revoked his responsibilities for agriculture reform and for investigating corruption, along with his official Mercedes car and most of his bodyguards.

He also accused Mr. Yeltsin's "warth" by denouncing his reform policies and accused the Russian government of contributing to the waste of national assets.

But Mr. Rutskoi said that despite feeling so isolated he was firmly resolved to denounce the "democratic Mafia system" which had replaced under Yeltsin the previous "communist Mafia system."

Ane he added that Russia was the only country in the civilised world threatened by death despite possessing huge reserves of natural resources.

Mr. Rutskoi, a former air force colonel and hero of the Afghanistan war, also claimed that the presidential elections set for 1996 would not be able to take place if the reforms continued in the same vein, saying there would no longer be a country to preside over.

Premier postpones U.S. visit

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has postponed a visit to the United States to work on Yeltsin's constitutional reforms, a senior official said Friday.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin told a news conference the visit would take place on June 28-29. The prime minister's office said he had originally been due to travel in the next couple of days.

Mr. Chernomyrdin heads one of five working groups of a constitutional assembly set up by Mr. Yeltsin to bypass conservative opponents in parliament and resolve Russia's power crisis.

Major's government buffeted by new row

LLANGOLLEN, Wales (R) — Prime Minister John Major's government was buffeted by a new row over the sensitive issue of payments to the disabled Friday after a stormy week that threatened the British premier's grip on power.

Mr. Major was seeking to defend his record and restore his battered authority in a speech to Welsh Conservative Party activists after dismissing a fierce attack on him by his sacked Chancellor Norman Lamont as a "little local difficulty."

He received strong backing from conservative members of parliament, and government ministers Thursday, but his accident-prone government stumbled again with a leaked document detailing proposals to limit payments to the disabled.

The proposal, which Security Secretary Peter Lilley acknowledged could cause "some outrage," is part of efforts by the government to cut expenditure as it faces a huge £50 billion (£75 billion) borrowing requirement this year.

As opposition politicians and medical charities attacked the proposals, Mr. Lilley tried to minimise the damage for a government whose popularity is at a record low and which faces an imminent and critical by-election in a town dominated by old people.

"There is no question of taking money away from those who are genuinely sick and who are in need and want help. We are enhancing the benefits to disabled people," he told a radio interviewer.

"It is a question of getting the right benefits to the right people. We want to stop in future anyone swinging the lead (cheating)." He said the aim was to apply stricter criteria to those applying to receive benefits in the future.

The number of people receiving state disability pay has grown from 600,000 in 1978/79 to 1.5 million this year. The cost has



John Major

risen from £840 million (£1.3 billion) to £6.2 billion (£9.4 billion).

The Conservative Party has quickly rallied round Mr. Major following Mr. Lamont's wounding attack in parliament Wednesday in which he accused Mr. Major of short-termism and giving "the impression of being in office but not in power."

In Llangollen Mr. Major was expected to counter the view, also reflected by many newspaper commentators and some conservative parliamentarians, that he has been reacting from crisis to crisis ever since his surprise win in the April 1992 general election.

Aides said he would reassert the long-term policy that he has consistently expressed — establishing Britain at the heart of Europe and fighting inflation as the basis for sustained economic recovery.

Mr. Major and his ministers are confident their popularity will be restored as a fragile economic recovery, which has already started, takes firmer hold later this year.

The prime minister was given crucial backing from the bulk of conservative members of parliament who pledged after a meeting Thursday night that he would "receive our 100 support in the future."

BERLIN (AFP) — The Ninth International Conference on AIDS, which ended here Friday, confirmed the darkest fears of those suffering from the killer disease or carrying HIV, the virus that causes it.

"Five days of presentations by some of the top names in medical research showed many of the millions of AIDS sufferers will die before any cure is found."

"I think this conference has consolidated our information. It's back to the drawing board as far as treatment is concerned," said a leading Australian immunologist, John Dwyer, who also heads the AIDS Society for Asia and the Pacific, a help group.

Michael Merson, director of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) global AIDS programme, agreed: "It's best to be frank: There have been disappointments in antiretroviral therapy... We

must accept that our scientific advances today are coming in small steps, not in leaps and bounds."

The conference's closing ceremony was punctuated by angry demonstrations by radical AIDS activists, frustrated at the lack of progress.

These were the main points emerging from the massive forum: AZT, the interferon drug that sufferers desperately hoped could be a cure, is worthless for preventing HIV from turning into full-blown AIDS, according to an Anglo-French study of 1,700 patients.

And because AZT has some toxic side-effects, doctors may be advised to skirt it as a monotherapy, and use it instead in a milder combination with other drugs.

However, AZT does boost the count of CD-4 cells, the key white cells that fight infection of the



The U.N. provincial director (left), speaking through a translator, talks to a crowd of around 600 protesters who camped out in front of U.N. headquarters demanding that Prince Norodom Sihanouk takes power June 11 (AFP photo)

Defeated Cambodian government stages more poll demonstrations

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Government Party, defeated in last month's polls, staged more protests Friday to demand an inquiry into alleged fraud but U.N. peacekeepers said most of them fizzled out.

"Several spontaneous demonstrations were planned today throughout Cambodia but most of them have so far failed to materialise," spokesman Eric Falt said.

U.N. election officials finalised plans for the first meeting Monday of the constituent assembly designed to deliver democracy after a quarter-century of chaos and bloodshed.

The Government Party won 51 seats to the FUNCINPEC Royalist opposition's 58 in the 120-seat assembly which is to write a constitution and form a government in three months.

The formerly communist government refuses to accept the results. In what diplomats call a negotiating tactic to win a share of power in a proposed interim administration, Prime Minister Hun Sen Thursday predicted bloodshed and breakdown provinces unless fraud claims were independently investigated.

Mr. Hun Sen said his party — installed by Vietnamese invaders in 1979 — would attend Monday's assembly meeting. He said

a new constitution and government would depend on whether fraud complaints were addressed satisfactorily.

The United Nations and diplomats from nine countries have declared the poll fair. But the prime minister predicted widespread unrest in protest at the results.

"We have to examine every effort in order to avoid a bloodbath," he said.

He told reporters Thursday at least three provinces had "decided to secede" in protest. Hun Neng, governor of eastern Kompong Cham and Mr. Hun Sen's brother, demanded that U.N. troops and police withdraw from the province.

Mr. Falt said a crowd gathered Thursday near a U.N. office in the province, apparently to try to seize the radio. He said a local Government Party official threatened staff and another person fired shots in the air.

Two anti-U.N. protests, both involving about 150 people, were held in the province Friday, Mr. Falt said. In Kompong Cham Town, schools were closed Friday in Sray Rieng Province, protesters broke windows at the U.N. police office.

But Mr. Falt added: The CPAF (government army) leadership is firmly in control of its troops and unambiguously committed to the peace process."

The U.N. said Thursday the government army and two small guerrilla factions which once fought it had agreed to merge into a new army loyal to a democratic government.

Royalist Party leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh has offered the Government Party a coalition but diplomats believe personal animosity between the prince and Mr. Hun Sen is complicating any deal.

Britain, 2 Cambodians kidnapped

A Briton and two Cambodians working with the British mine clearance aid organisation Halo Trust were kidnapped by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia's western province of Pursat, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The British volunteer worker, identified as Christopher Moon from Reading, and his team of 25 Cambodians were working on a mine clearing programme and were on their way back to their office at Pursat town when they were detained by a group of 15 armed guerrillas, a British embassy official said.

Two of them were wearing Khmer Rouge uniforms, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Arsonists strike again in Germany

FRANKFURT (R) — Arsonists struck at a foreigners' hostel in western Germany during the night and fire gutted a Turkish home in the south in another possible arson attack, police said Friday.

A baby was rushed to hospital with suspected smoke poisoning in the south-western town of Simsbach, near Stuttgart, after firefighters battled a blaze which destroyed a first-floor room in a house where 14 Turks lived.

Police did not rule out arson in the attack Thursday evening.

In a separate attack, arsonists in Modautal-Ernsthofen, near Darmstadt, disposed clothes with petrol and set them ablaze on the staircase of the second floor of a house where residents from several foreign countries lived, police said.

No one was injured. One resident spotted the fire on his way to the communal toilet in the early hours and alerted others to what appears to be the latest of a series of attacks on foreigners by rightist extremists.

Civil war warning

On Wednesday, the German government renewed its pledge to put down a wave of racist firebombings as one of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition partners called for action to prevent the country descending into civil war.

N. Korea tests missile that can reach Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — Defence agency officials said Friday they have been informed that North Korea recently tested a new intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of hitting western Japan.

North Korea test-launched the "Rodong-1," which has a 1,000-kilometre range, in late May over the Japan Sea, between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, said a defence agency official. The official said the information came from several sources he would not name.

The foreign ministry refused to comment.

North Korea's development of the missile, a modified and upgraded copy of the Russian Scud, is believed to be nearing completion.

The agency official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agency is currently gathering information but details, including whether the test was successful, or where the missile fell, were not immediately available.

But he said Japan's navy detected North Korean military vessels dispatched in the middle of the Japan Sea in late May.

The official refused to identify the sources, but suggested the information was provided by U.S. intelligence sources.

The headline communist North's latest move was seen abroad as a threatening gesture because it comes just before the June 12 effective date for its

withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

North Korea's withdrawal, announced in March, has triggered a security crisis in northeast Asia.

In New York Friday, last-minute bilateral talks continued between North Korea and the United States, which is trying to persuade North Korea to reverse its decision.

If the U.S. effort fails, North Korea, will be the first nation in the NPT's 23-year history to withdraw.

Western authorities suspect that North Korea has developed enough fissionable plutonium for at least one nuclear weapon.

The defence agency official said the agency most recently confirmed an earlier test in the summer of 1990.

N. Korea makes conditional offer

In Seoul, government sources were quoted Friday as saying that North Korea has conditionally offered to remain in the NPT.

During talks in New York Thursday with the United States, North Korea "conditionally" agreed to retract its March 12 decision to withdraw from the NPT if the United States agreed to a "reward," local press reports quoted the sources as saying.

The unspecified reward could be the United States normalising its relations with North Korea, the reports said.

Thais throw sex stones in glass parliament house

BANGKOK (R) — In Thailand, where many men take second, third and fourth wives, charges of adultery are being buried at a man who has none, the prime minister. Television sets throughout the kingdom have been tuned to a three-day parliamentary no confidence debate as citizens awaited a promised opposition attack on the personal life of mild-mannered Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. On Thursday, the opposition delivered. A stern-faced Chuan was asked to "gracefully clarify" his relationship with the divorced mother of his son. Mr. Chuan, who has vowed not to respond to opposition charges about personal matters, says the boy is his, but says he is a bachelor.

Opposition member of parliament Pairote Suwanwadee was able to fight through bawdy and shouted objections from members of Mr. Chuan's five-party coalition to read into the record a newspaper interview given by the woman, Pakdiporn Sucharitkul, in which she said she fell in love with Chuan in 1984. Mr. Pairote said he had proof that Ms. Pakdiporn was not divorced until 1986.

"Any person who commits adultery is a sinner," opposition heavyweight Chalerm Yoobamrung later told the body. "My mother told me never to take liberty with another man's wife." An ally of Mr. Chuan rose to accuse Mr. Chalerm of doing just that. Mr. Chalerm had an affair with a cashier, parliamentarian Arkom Engchuan said, and then had an affair with the cashier's daughter. Mr. Chalerm denied it.

'Coffin' kidnapper says he joked with victim

NOTTINGHAM (R) — A kidnapper who kept his ransom victim in a coffin-like box for eight days claims he shed tears of pity for the woman and tried to cheer her up by cracking jokes, a British court heard Thursday. Michael Sams, a one-legged tool repairer, has pleaded guilty at the court in central England to kidnapping a local estate agent in a case which caused a media sensation last year because of the bizarre conditions of the woman's confinement. But he denies other charges of strangling an 18-year-old prostitute whose body was found dumped in a field in 1991. Mr. Sams wept in court as prosecution lawyers told how police found a written note in his workshop saying he was "ashamed, upset and disgusted" at how he treated 25-year-old property agent Stephanie Slater. "I tried to make her laugh and smile but the sudden change of her smiling face to one of pain and terrified was heartbreaking," he said in the note, which also claimed he massaged her feet when they got cold. "Even now my eyes fill with tears and I wake up at night crying," Mr. Sams wrote, adding that Ms. Slater hugged him at one point. The prosecution dismissed Mr. Sams' claims of compassion as friendly banter with his victim as hypocrisy.

A thirsty rat, ma'am? That'll be £200

LONDON (R) — A woman who left her pet rat alone to die without water was fined by a British court. Lisa Chapman, 22, was fined £80 (£120) and ordered to pay £50 (£75) in court costs for leaving Ziggy for six days without water and only a tiny piece of cheese to eat. "I didn't actually abandon him," Ms. Chapman told the court, saying she was homeless and unemployed. "I had no choice." The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) defended its decision to prosecute the woman, saying rats have feelings too. "That was a warm-blooded animal that can suffer pain and starvation, just like any human being."

Sperm count down? Go north, young man

LONDON (R) — Finnish men are more fertile than men of other nationalities, according to a study published Friday by Dr. Jyrki Suominen who analysed earlier studies of 849 men. "The mean sperm count of the Finnish men was nearly double that of men worldwide," said his report. Men from Finland's Rural Lake District had the highest sperm counts and very low rates of testicular cancer, suggesting that urban lifestyle may be at fault. A recent Danish study found a cut in men's average sperm count over the past 50 years, possibly due to pollution. Sperm density nearly halved and semen quantity fell by a quarter.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gonzalez faces haggling after election break

MADRID (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez returned from a post-election break Friday to start haggling with political groups on forming a minority government. Mr. Gonzalez chaired the first cabinet meeting since his Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) narrowly missed an overall majority in last Sunday's parliamentary polls, leaving the key to power in the hands of nationalist and left-wing parties. The prime minister, returned to office for a fourth time, spent three days in Andalusia studying alternatives for a new government as battle brewed for control of the 350-seat congress. The lower house is due to convene June 29. The Catalan Convergencia i Unio (CIU) and Basque National Party (PNV), who won 22 seats between them, have reacted coolly to the idea of a coalition with Mr. Gonzalez's party, which won 150 seats. They prefer a broad government programme. The United Left (UL) has held out hopes of an alliance with the Socialists in the event of them forming a more left-leaning administration and turned Friday against any Socialist deal with the regional parties.

Military patrols after vote results

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — Military patrols moved onto the streets of the Congolese capital Friday after the interior minister unexpectedly issued the results of a controversial second round of voting which gave President Pascal Lissouba's supporters an overall majority in parliament. The soldiers stopped cars and searched for weapons. Announcing it would bring in special security measures, the military high command had earlier asked Lissouba to cancel the results of the second round so as to avoid "unnecessary unrest at a time of acute political crisis." Sunday's polling, boycotted by the opposition, was a run-off for 11 seats left undecided in the May 2 first round of the general election. Interior Minister Colonel Francois Ayayan said on the radio early Friday that the presidential party had won seven and one of the opposition movements four. That gave the president's supporters 69 of the 125 seats, with 49 for the main opposition coalition.

Bulls win 1st game of NBA finals

PHOENIX (Agencies) — Chalk one up to experience and move on, the Bulls say. Time to get greedy, say the Bulls.

On a workout day Thursday after the two-time defending champion Chicago Bulls beat Phoenix 100-92 in game one of the best-of-seven NBA finals, both sides said game two would be different — and the difference would be that now the Bulls had some experience in the league's ultimate crucible.

"The first game is not an indication of where the series is going to lead us," said Chicago superstar Michael Jordan.

"We felt that we caught them maybe sleeping, not knowing what to expect in the finals," Jordan said.

"We feel that we have an opportunity to be aggressive, be greedy. I like the attitude of this team right now, very relaxed, very confident, very focused."

Phoenix point guard Kevin Johnson was cheerful despite his poor game. "This is the first damn game of the series. You cannot overreact."

Johnson came in early Thursday morning to watch film of the game, while avoiding his coaches.

"I didn't want to let them get their fangs in me," he said. "I wanted to watch the film first so I'd have some answers for them."

What he saw was some good Chicago defense.

"They made a concerted effort keeping me from penetrating, not



Bulls ace Michael Jordan (left)

letting me have a clear shot to the basket, which is what we expected. We just didn't expect it to be that effective."

Johnson said the unknown factor of being in a finals for the first time had been the biggest factor.

"The hardest thing is to know how to approach a series and a game that you've never been in before," he said. "That was the hard part, the unknown, not knowing what to expect."

He added: "There's no substitute for experience. Now we have experience in a finals game."

Charles Barkley, Phoenix's other superstar flop, said: "It's definitely a different air of excitement being here in the finals."

HE added: "We got the first one out of the way, now we can just play."

Barkley felt he just had a bad shooting night, and said there was a danger of over-strategizing. "Everybody's a genius today," he said.

Jordan had a warning for B.J. Armstrong, who guards Johnson, and for Horace Grant, who matches up with Barkley: "Be prepared for game two because both of these players are going to want to come back and kind of redeem themselves."

Said the Bulls' other star, Scottie Pippen: "You realize that

Charles is going to come back tomorrow and he's going to be very aggressive offensively. Expect him to catch the ball tomorrow and just go. He's not going to be waiting for any double teams."

Kukoc set to become major addition to Bulls herd

Croatian guard forward Tony Kukoc will be a major addition to the Chicago Bulls, team vice-president Jerry Krause said Thursday.

"I am anxious to start negotiating with him. I think he could be an enormous plus to the side," Krause said.

Italian team Benetton Treviso has reluctantly freed Kukoc, 25, from his contract so he can start talking over a move to the NBA in July. Kukoc is widely considered Europe's best basketball player. He was under contract until 1995 but the contract has a buyout clause understood to be worth \$15.3 million.

Speaking in Phoenix, where the Bulls are preparing for the second game of the NBA finals against the Phoenix Suns, Krause said "Kukoc can play offensive or back I think he would be a great success with Michael Jordan or Scottie Pippen."

The Bulls, looking for a third successive title in the best of seven play-offs, will have to wait until the NBA announces its new salary limits next month before starting talks.

Juergen Klinsmann beat a hesitant Brazilian defence to a throw-in to head home the equaliser which, in typical German style, came in injury time.

His goal climaxed a stunning turnaround for the Germans who had suffered a humiliating first 45 minutes on a torrid afternoon.

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Beleagured Taylor attempts to weather U.S. storm

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U.S. Cup

Brazil, Germany draw; England disgraced

WASHINGTON (R) — The defensive slip-ups and lapses of concentration which have cost Brazil in recent World Cups came back to haunt them as world champions Germany staged a remarkable comeback from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with Brazil in the U.S. Cup Thursday.

Brazil looked unstoppable in the first half as they built a 3-0 lead, at times making the world champions look silly with their unique, inimitable brand of soccer.

If their first half display did not excite the American public, then soccer's cause in the United States is lost.

But in the second half the 34,000 crowd at the RFK Stadium saw the other Brazil, a team who play with an unbelievable casualness, committing needless fouls, giving the ball away and arguing with the referee.

The Germans, famed for their powers of recovery, took full advantage, pulling two goals back and then equalising in injury time with the Brazilian defence seemingly asleep.

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Germany's Andreas Moeller (left) and Brazil's Branco fight for the ball during their U.S. Cup match (AFP photo)

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Fans pay last respects to Croatian basketball star

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — More than 6,000 fans turned out in Zagreb's main sports hall Thursday to applaud one last time for Drazen Petrovic, the Croatian basketball star killed Monday in a car crash in Germany.

There were also tears as a big screen showed highlights of Drazen's play, including his performances with the New Jersey Nets, where he was one of the NBA's top shooting guards.

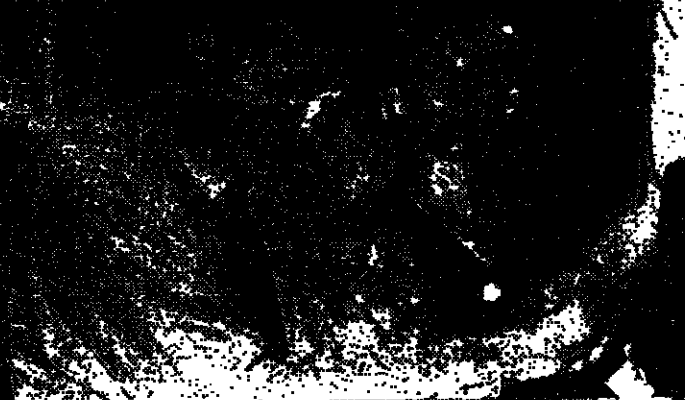
Drazen, 28, was known as the "Mozart of basketball" among his Croatian fans.

"He was a winner, except on that damned Monday, when he did not have a chance to reverse defeat into victory," lamented Mirko Novosel, a recruiter for the Croatian national team.

"I made my daily itinerary according to his games," said Mladen Jelic, a 15-year-old fan. "What shall I do now?"

Petrovic was riding in a car driven by his girlfriend when it skidded out of control on a rain-slick autobahn and crashed into a truck blocking the road. He was killed instantly.

He was to be buried Friday in Zagreb. Most of Croatia's leading citizens, including president Franjo Tudjman, were expected to pay their respects at the funeral.



Aleksander Petrovic, coach of Cibona Zagreb basketball team and elder brother of Drazen Petrovic, wipes away his tears during the commemoration ceremony for his brother. Drazen, 28, member of New Jersey Nets team was killed in a car accident Monday (AFP photo)



LEBANON BEAT INDIA 2-1 IN WORLD CUP PRELIMINARY

Lebanon beat India 2-1 in a World Cup Asian Zone qualifying match Friday. In above photo by AFP, India's defender Subir Ghosh (right) tries to block an attack by Lebanon's Mohammad Messelmani (left) during their Group D match. Lebanon thus chalked up eight points, after two wins, a draw and a loss in Seoul, while India was at the bottom with one point after three losses here. Lebanon scored first with Hassan Ayoub penalty in the 41st minute, but the Indians equalised three minutes later when Bhupinder Thakur made a solo attack on goal. The Lebanese notched the winner in the 79th minute through Rafi Jouffayn. Bahrain trounced Hong Kong 3-0 in the second Group D match of the day.

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
South Korea	7	6	1	0	20	1	13
Bahrain	7	3	3	1	9	3	9
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Hong Kong	7	2	1	4	8	16	5
India	7	0	1	6	5	21	1

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WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSCH
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A SIMPLE PRECAUTION

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ J 3 4
♦ 10 8 4
♦ A K 8 5 4
♦ K 7 3

WEST
♦ A 8 7 5 4
♦ K 9 2
♦ 9 7 2
♦ 10 6

EAST
♦ 9 6 2
♦ A 7
♦ Q J 10 6 3
♦ J 9 4

SOUTH
♦ K Q 10
♦ Q J 9 8 3
♦ Void
♦ A Q 6 5 2

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1 1 1 1
2 2 2 2
3 3 3 3
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Incidentally, the fact that a country with one of the smallest bridge populations in the world could win a major world team championship holds well for the future of the game. Our congratulations to the Icelanders.

Four hearts was played at all eight tables in the semifinals of the Open and Women's team championships.

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The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday - Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration

TO DA V	<p>Cinema Tel.: 671420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>1) LA BAMBA Shows: 3:00, 6:30, 10:30</p> <p>2) UNDER SIEGE Shows: 12:30, 4:45, 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Happy Eid Al Adha Adel Imam — in The Forgotten Arabic</p> <p>Shows at 11 a.m., 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>ST. ELMO'S FIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: The Assassination of Hanchalah by artist Saeed Bitar</p> <p>Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>presents 1) Parliament and Budget play at 9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 2) Ahlan New World Order at 9 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday</p>
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Jewish terrorists plan attacks on Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish extremists are organising underground militia units with plans to attack Palestinian peace negotiators and sabotage Middle East peace talks, a newspaper reported Friday.

The Hadashot tabloid featured an interview with a cell organiser in the occupied West Bank identified only as "Shatz," a Hebrew acronym for "public messenger."

It quoted an unidentified senior intelligence official as saying the Shin Bet undercover squads were prepared to deal with the problem.

In response to the article, the army and police said only that they were not aware of any undergrounds.

In the report, Shatz acknowledged that the underground was still in its amateurish first stages. He said that, unlike a Jewish underground that terrorised Palestinians in the early 1980s, there was no explosives expert in his group. Shatz also recounted how he ploughed his car into a garbage dumpster while following Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Ori Orr, chairman of parliament's defence committee, questioned the accuracy of the report, but said that prospects of Israel withdrawing from the occupied land has stirred sensitivity among Jewish settlers who "face a sea of uncertainty."

"Politically, there is a reason for this tension," Mr. Orr told Israel Radio. "We must be careful about everything we say."

A settler leader said the group was unrepresentative. "I think the media is trying to fan the fires," Israel Harel of the West Bank settlers' council said.

The nascent underground de-

scribed in Hadashot went beyond the gun-toting vigilantes who trash Arab homes and cars, generally in response to attacks on settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shatz said him that the group's goal was to stop the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, which threatened a continued Jewish presence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The organisation, comprised of Israeli army combat veterans, did not necessarily plan to kill its targets, Shatz said. "An assassination attempt would be enough for people to get the hint," he said. They believe attacks would make Palestinians more extreme and cause them to walk out of the peace process.

In any case, Shatz told Hadashot, the group was waiting for rabbinical approval to carry out an attack.

Settlers protest Golan

Leaders of the 110,000 Jewish settlers of the occupied territories announced Friday a series of demonstrations against Israel's offer to trade part of the Golan Heights for peace with Syria.

"At a time when the peace talks are resuming we want to let it be known that Rabin has no mandate to evacuate the Golan," said Aaron Domb, settlers' council spokesman.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is ready to pull out part of the strategic plateau if Syria will agree to open borders and diplomatic and trade ties at peace talks which resume in Washington Tuesday.

From Sunday, 1,000 settlers will camp outside the Israeli parliament while another 1,000 join sit-ins outside ministers' homes, Mr. Domb told AFP.

Australia to accept PLO representative from Tunis

CANBERRA (R) — Australia will allow a direct representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Tunis headquarters to take up a position in Canberra, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Friday.

Australia had also agreed to receive a high-level PLO delegation, Mr. Evans said in a statement. The PLO is now represented in Canberra by an Australian national.

"These decisions come at an important juncture in the Middle East peace process, when moderation and flexibility from all sides are required to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations," Mr. Evans said.

"Growing opposition to the peace process from extremist Islamic groups, including Hamas, (highlights) the importance of countries such as Australia extending encouragement to the forces of moderation within the PLO," he said.

Hamas, a rival of the PLO for leadership of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, opposes the current round of Middle East peace talks.

The present PLO office in Canberra does not have diplomatic status and Mr. Evans said this would not change with the new representative from Tunis, who has not been named.

He also noted that the high-level PLO delegation would follow recent visits to Australia by senior Israeli officials.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department said no date had been set for the visit.

Mr. Evans said that when first proposed last year, the delegation was to be headed by the director-general of the PLO's Political Department, Latif Abu Hejleh. Israel's ambassador to Canberra, Yehuda Avner, said his country regretted Australia's decision.

"Any measure which may jeopardise the delicate balance of the Palestinian representation from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be unhelpful," Mr. Avner said.

Mr. Avner was apparently referring to Israel's distinction between the PLO and Palestinians in the occupied territories who are negotiating with Israel.



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania drive through downtown after their marriage Thursday (see more photos on page 3)

2 guerrillas killed in Lebanon clash

TYRE (AP) — Shelling duels flared in South Lebanon Friday after a ground clash between guerrillas infiltrators and Israeli troops, two guerrillas were killed.

Security sources said the infiltrators were intercepted and engaged at midnight (2100 GMT Thursday) by Israeli troops and their surrogate militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) near the village of Taloussa, on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

In Israel, the military command confirmed the confrontation.

It said "two terrorists were killed overnight in a clash with Israeli Defence Force." Their bodies were found at the site this morning, it said, without identifying the guerrillas' organisation.

The statement added that the Israeli soldiers involved were paratroopers from a brigade that had suffered heavy losses in Lebanon in the past few months. Their most recent fatalities were four paratroopers fatally shot by fellow Israeli soldiers last month who apparently mistook them for guerrillas.

Hizbollah (Party of God) claimed its guerrillas were engaged in a clash with the Israeli army.

The Iranian-backed party has been leading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israel from the predominantly Shi'ite Muslim enclave.

Shelling duels flared after the overnight clash. There was a three-hour exchange of howitzer and mortar fire between Israeli and SLA gunners in the zone and Hizbollah positions facing the zone's central sectors.

The sources said Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen pounded the U.N.-policed villages of Majdal Shlim and Shaqra with howitzer barrages.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the bombardment and the command of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon said none of the Irish peacekeepers in the two villages was hurt.

Hizbollah attacked SLA militiamen manning the Beit Yuhon gateway that links the Israeli-occupied border enclave with the rest of the South Lebanon Thursday afternoon.

No one was injured in that attack, but the Israeli army said an SLA militiaman was killed Thursday while trying to defuse a roadside bomb in the same area.

Jews, Palestinians clash at Vienna forum

VIENNA (AP) — A Jewish and a Palestinian delegate clashed Thursday as 2,000 activists met in Vienna for a world-wide human rights conference.

The delegates, all from non-governmental organisations, opened their meeting four days ahead of the United Nations' largest-ever gathering on human rights.

Chants of "Palestine, Palestine" rang through the hall of the gathering as World Jewish Congress (WJC) delegate John Lack raced to the podium to interrupt a speech by Issam Abdul Hadi, head of the Union of Palestinian Women.

Mr. Lack said the Palestinian violated convention rules which say that speeches must not be made to advance national interests. Mr. Abdul Hadi had repeatedly referred to the "illegal occupation" of Palestinian lands by Israel.

Conference chairwoman Albertina Sisulu of South Africa,

wife of African National Congress (ANC) activist Walter Sisulu, eventually closed the hall and Mr. Abdul Hadi resumed speaking.

Ms. Sisulu, herself a prominent ANC activist, was elected president of the meeting by acclamation.

"The time has come for the world to know and recognise the role women are playing and can play in the world politics. Experience has shown that rights are easily lost without power," she told cheering delegates.

She urged non-governmental organisations to show support for black South Africans by supplying monitors for expected multi-racial elections there. She also said the fact that a vote has been scheduled in South Africa shows what non-governmental groups can achieve.

Earlier, the secretary general of the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, Senegal's former

Foreign Minister Ibrahim Fall, urged all countries to protect and improve the civil rights of the world's poor, sick and underprivileged.

"It is an essential element of the universality of human rights to ensure that all people enjoy these rights," Mr. Fall said.

He also urged nations to "seek out and identify the marginalised, the excluded, the powerless and those without a voice."

The delegates' conference opened in Vienna.

Western governments led by the United States — urging the U.N. conference to approve the creation of a U.N. high commissioner for human rights with powers to publicise and stop rights abuses.

But developing nations, particularly those in Asia, say the right to economic development must take precedence over civil and political rights.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ohio city declares Al Bireh a twin city

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A member of the Youngstown, Ohio city council on Friday formally declared the West Bank town of Al Bireh its sister city. City council member Martha Katz used the unusual occasion to call on both Arabs and Israelis to try to solve their differences without violence. "Both sides have to commit themselves to nonviolent means," she said before handing a gold-colored key to the city of Youngstown to Al Bireh Mayor Abdul Jawad Saleh. Mr. Saleh was allowed to return to the West Bank in April after 20 years in exile for organising protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In his short address, Mr. Saleh referred to the lack of local elections as "the most terrible measure against our people."

Expellee wounded in bomb explosion

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (AP) — A Palestinian expellee was wounded Friday when a bomb blew up in a field near the tent city housing him and 395 exiles. Adli Taneeneh, 33, a native of Hebron, was helping a group of exiles put out a fire in the bushes near the camp, when he apparently stepped on the bomb, triggering the blast. His head and arm suffered shrapnel wounds. Exiles at the camp said the device appeared to be an unexploded cluster bomb abandoned in the field before the camp was set up in December last year to house the expellees. Mr. Taneeneh was treated by doctors among the exiles. The Palestinians, most of them Muslim fundamentalists, have been trapped between Lebanese and Israeli army lines since their expulsion by Israel Dec. 17.

Vranitky hails Austria-Israel ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky heralded a new chapter in Austrian-Israeli relations Friday at the end of an unprecedented four-day tour. "There is a new chapter in relations between Israel and Austria," he told reporters. "We dealt with some of the questions between Israel and Austria, some of which still existed because of official Austria's refusal to deal with its Nazi past."

Bonn urged not to deport Algerian activists

BONN (R) — French lawyer Jacques Vergès urged Germany Friday not to extradite two Islamic fundamentalists sentenced to death in Algeria, saying they faced torture there. Mr. Vergès said even if Algeria suspended the death penalties to comply with German law, the two men would suffer under wide-spread torture reported in Algeria by Amnesty International. "If Rabah Kebir is castrated in an Algerian jail, will the German government say it did not know of these things?" Mr. Vergès told a news conference in Bonn, citing one method of torture listed by Amnesty in a report last year. Mr. Kebir, the chief Europe spokesman for exiled leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was arrested Monday on an international warrant issued by Algeria.

Saudis to reopen embassy in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Saudi Arabia has notified Lebanon that it planned to reopen its embassy in Beirut, closed in 1984 after it was ransacked and set alight by pro-Iranian demonstrators. Lebanese officials said the decision was conveyed to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Thursday. No date for the reopening of the embassy was set, but the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Riyadh already has appointed an ambassador to Lebanon. The Saudi decision came a few days after American Ambassador Ryan Crocker disclosed that the U.S. embassy would soon reactivate part of its consular services, suspended in 1983.

N. Korea denies arms-for-aid deal with Israel

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea, under fire for its defiant nuclear programme, denied Friday a U.S. magazine report that it was negotiating with Israel for economic aid in return for an end to its arms sales to Iran. "This is a totally unfounded fabrication and another malicious smear campaign," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a dispatch monitored here. But it added that North Korea had "never sold missiles and other mass-destruction weapons to Mideast nations." Time magazine reported recently that the U.S. government last month urged Israel to back off from any deal with the regime of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung. According to the report, Israel hoped to stop North Korean sales of nuclear technology and advanced missile systems to Iran.

Police say Iranian lied about rightists

OSLO (AP) — Police accused a young Iranian Friday of setting fire to his family's house and leaving a poster with a swastika to draw suspicion towards right wing extremists. "I don't know what the motive was," said Jarle Jonassen, acting sheriff in the central town of Oppdal. "He admitted that he set the fire." Mr. Jonassen said 18-year-old Tofan Nour also admitted drawing the poster with a swastika and the slogan "Norway for Norwegians." The sign was found after the Thursday morning fire and police said they suspected rightwingers. Mr. Nour and his 13-year-old sister were home alone, and extinguished the blaze.

Idi Amin aide sentenced to death

MBARARA, Uganda (AFP) — The Ugandan high court Friday sentenced to death a former provincial administration minister in dictator Idi Amin's regime on a charge of murder he committed in 1972. In a two-hour judgement, read before a packed court here, Justice Alfred Karunkora said he was satisfied with prosecution evidence that Brigadier Ali Fadhul had played a key role in the murder in 1972 of a Francis Tibanyanga, an administrative secretary for western Uganda's Ankole district.

Israeli army says it will recruit gays

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army said Friday it has formalised a policy of freely drafting homosexuals and would not automatically bar them from serving in sensitive posts. Lawmaker Yael Dayan, daughter of late general and statesman Moshe Dayan, said the policy "surpasses other armies" in its liberalism. It goes beyond recent changes in the U.S. Armed Forces, where homosexuals are not obliged to come out of the closet, but can still be dismissed. Israel, which is still formally in a state of war with Arab countries, has a mandatory draft for 18-year-old men and women. Most men also serve in the reserves at least 40 days a year until age 55. The military statement said a "newly worded command determines there be no restrictions on recruiting homosexuals to the Israel Defence Forces." Draft of homosexuals would also be done "by the same criteria as applied to all candidates to the security forces."

Summit on Black Sea fleet set for June 17

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday said he would hold a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin June 17 to discuss their countries' dispute over the Black Sea fleet, Interfax reported. Mr. Kravchuk, speaking to a delegation of Russian deputies, said: "I am confident that we can solve this problem," referring to the 200 vessels of the fleet which have hoisted the Russian flag in protest over their living conditions.

Nigerian elections to go ahead

ABUJA (AFP) — Presidential elections will go ahead as planned in Nigeria Saturday, the government national electoral committee announced Friday. Its decision came after the high court in Abuja issued an order postponing the voting. The court made the order (ABN) which supports President Ibrahim Babangida and his military regime. But electoral commission president Humphrey Nwosu said in a press statement that the NEC decision to press ahead with the elections should not be seen as a violation of the court order, but rather as being in accord with the articles laid down in the country's constitution.

U.N. team extends Iraq stay

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A small team of U.N. experts on ballistic missiles has extended its stay in Iraq for more meetings with the Iraqis, a U.N. source said Friday.

Nikita Smidovitch, a veteran U.N. inspector, and four other missile experts, had been due to leave Baghdad Friday.

The source declined to say how long they were staying or why but in the past there have been unexpected delays when the U.N. inspection teams hit snags with the Iraqis.

U.N. officials said in New York the U.N. disarmament committee for Iraq has been stopped by Iraqi authorities from setting up television monitors at two rocket test stands near Baghdad.

It was Iraq's latest alleged defiance of U.N. Resolution 715, which was passed after the 1991 Gulf war and calls for Iraq to allow U.N. observers unimpeded access to its weapons facilities to ensure the elimination of all its weapons of mass-destruction.

Spokesman Tim Trevan told reporters that Iraqi authorities had prevented the installation of permanent television monitors at rocket test sites in Yawn Al Azim and Al Rafah, 65 kilometres south and southwest of Baghdad, respectively.

Mr. Smidovitch arrived in Baghdad last Friday to monitor Iraq's ballistic missile potential and press for full compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Ten other U.N. experts, led by Patrice Palanque of France, are also in Iraq. They are on an open-ended monitoring mission and had not planned to leave on Friday.

Victim of Kuwaiti atrocities set preconditions for trial attendance

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Lebanese woman who was raped and shot in the head by a sole gunman alleged to be an agent of Kuwaiti government has set certain conditions for her return to the emirate for the trial of the suspect.

Naimat Farhat, 35, who is undergoing treatment in the United States after surviving the March 2, 1991 attack in which her father and brother were shot dead, is demanding that her personal safety be assured by the government of Kuwait, that the trial be open to the media and human rights organisations and that the Kuwaiti government pay all expenses for her travel, accompanied by doctors, lawyers and personal bodyguards.

Miss Farhat, in a letter sent to her Kuwaiti lawyer Mohammad Al Hilal and signed by her brother Naim Farhat, is also asking for a postponement of the trial date from June 16 to mid-July.

In the meantime, Miss Farhat, whose family was settled in Kuwait and remained in the emirate throughout the seven-month Iraqi occupation which ended in February 1991, is demanding that the suspect, who has not been identified, be denied bail pending trial.

A suggestion by the lawyer that the suspect could be granted bail if Miss Farhat failed to turn up in court on June 16 was described by Mr. Farhat as "one step from blackmail."

"... There are many prison-

ers in Kuwaiti jails who are being detained for such less serious crimes than those committed against my family," said the June 8 letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "These persons have been incarcerated much longer than the suspect in our case, and they have received no bail."

According to Miss Farhat, the attack on her family and herself took place immediately after the liberation of Kuwait.

The facts of the case are largely undisputed by the Kuwaiti government: A man alleged to be an agent of Kuwaiti intelligence came to the Farhat residence on March 2, made Miss Farhat hodge her father and brother at gunpoint, raped her, then shot her in the head after the act and then killed the two bound men.

Miss Farhat was left to bleed to death, but she somehow survived and was taken to the U.S. by her relatives to join her brother who lives in California. She is now undergoing "post-traumatic stress and severe depression," according to her physician, Cleto S. Genalza of the East Valley Mental Health Clinic in San Jose, California.

Complaints filed by her brother Naim with the Kuwaiti government went unanswered until he enlisted the support of the international media and the U.S. State Department. After initial denials and refusals of Miss Farhat's version of the incidents, the Kuwaiti government, coming under pressure from the U.S. government as well as international human

rights activists, said it had detained a suspect.

"It will take all my sister's strength and will to endure a trip to Kuwait to confront the man who is suspected of assassinating her father and brother, and (of) raping and attempting to kill her," said Mr. Farhat's letter addressed to lawyer Hilal.

"As if this was not enough, she is being required to return to the very environment in which her death sentence was planned, ordered and almost accomplished," it said.

The Farhats are charging that the attack on the family was carried out under orders from Kuwaiti intelligence which went on a rampage of vengeance against non-Kuwaitis in the emirate immediately after its liberation.

Naim Farhat says that his brother and father were not involved in assisting the Iraqi occupation forces. On the contrary, he says, his brother helped Kuwaiti resistance during the occupation.

Hundreds of people were killed or brutalised during the rampage of vengeful Kuwaitis, and Miss Farhat's experience was definitely not an isolated case, say expatriates who returned home to Jordan after the Gulf crisis.

"In many cases, women were raped, but their families are keeping quiet about the incidents for fear of shame and damaging the family honour," said a Jordanian expatriate who served as a lawyer in Kuwait for many years before being forced out in the aftermath of the war.

Egyptian police arrest 150

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian security forces have rounded up more than 150 Muslim militants in their hunt for those responsible for a bomb attack on a tour bus in Cairo this week, security sources said Friday.

In the southern town of Al Qusiya, gunmen believed by the sources to be Muslim fundamentalists, shot and killed a secret police officer after he left his house to go to work.

The sources, disclosing the detention of 150 suspects in connection with Tuesday's bombing, said police in the last three days raided flats in Cairo and its suburbs which they believed were used as hideouts by fundamentalists.

One Egyptian was killed and 22 people, including four British tourists, were wounded in the bomb attack on the road to the Pyramids.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, the latest in a series of bomb and gun attacks targeting foreign tourists. Security officials blamed Muslim militants fighting for an Islamic state.

Following the bombing, Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi issued new restrictions on the lease of furnished apartments as part of a security campaign to tighten the noose on militants.

"Any landlord who leases a furnished apartment must report within three days to police in his area the names of the occupant, his nationality, his passport number if he is a foreigner and the number and place of issue of his identity card if he is an Egyptian," his orders said.